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The Presbytery of Philadelphia's

EXTRACTS

FROM

THE MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

From A. D. 1789, *to A. D.* 1802,

INCLUSIVE,

With a copious

INDEX.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY JANE AITKEN, NO. 20, NORTH THIRD STREET.

.....

1803.

The pages referred to in this index are marked with a pen, at the corner of the page at the top, the printed pages having always been made for the extracts of only a single year.

Abreviations, G. A. for General Assembly of the presbyterian Church, Gl. An. for General Association of the churches of Connecticut.

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ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SYNOD OF NEW-YORK AND PHILADELPHIA.

A. D. 1787, & 1788.

PHILADELPHIA:
RE-PRINTED BY JANE AITKEN, No. 20, NORTH THIRD STREET.
.....
1803.

MAY 22, 1788.

Ordered, *That Dr.* M'Whorter, *Dr.* Duffield, *Mr.* Armstrong, *Mr.* M'Knight, *Mr.* Finley, *Mr.* Templeton, *and* Isaac Snowden, *esq. be a committee to select such parts of the minutes of the last and present sessions of Synod, as they may judge will be of general advantage to the Church—and also to prepare a list of the Ministers, Probationers and Congregations belonging to the Synod; together with an account of the collections made agreeably to the appointment of Synod, at their last meeting, for defraying expences in printing the Draught of a Plan of Government,* &c.

THE Synod of New-York and Philadelphia, met in the Second Presbyterian Church, in Philadelphia; and was opened by the Rev. Alexander Miller, with a ſermon from Matth. XVIII. 17.—and continued by adjournments till the 28th of May.

Reſolved, That the order of laſt Synod, reſpecting the catechiſing of vacant congregations, be a ſtanding order of Synod.*

The Synod did allow, and do hereby allow, that Dr. Watts's imitation of David's Pſalms, as reviſed by the Rev. Mr. Barlow, be ſung in the churches and families under their care.——But they are, at the ſame time, far from diſapproving of Rouſe's verſion, commonly called "the old Pſalms," in thoſe who are in the uſe of them, and chooſe to continue; but are of opinion that either may be uſed by the churches, as each congregation may judge to be moſt for their peace and edification.—And do, therefore, highly diſapprove of ſevere and unchriſtian cenſures being paſſed on either of the ſaid ſyſtems of Pſalmody.

Dr. Smith, Dr. M'Whorter, Dr. Duffield, Mr. Power, Mr. Coſſon, Mr. Kerr, Mr. Simpſon, Mr. John B. Smith, Mr. Templeton, and Mr. Balch, were appointed a committee to make arrangements to divide this Synod into three Synods.

The committee appointed to arrange the Synod into three Synods made report; and after conſidering their report, the Synod agreed, That the arrangement of the Preſbyteries under four Synods ſhould, for the preſent, remain as determined laſt year.

The Synod, taking into conſideration an overture reſpecting ſlavery, determined as follows, *viz.*

The Synod of New-York and Philadelphia do highly approve of the general principles, in favor of univerſal liberty, that prevail in America; and the intereſt which many of the ſtates have taken in promoting the abolition of ſlavery. Yet, inaſmuch as men introduced from a ſervile ſtate, to a participation of all the privileges of civil ſociety, without a proper education, and without previous habits of induſtry, may be, in many reſpects dangerous to the community. *Therefore*, they earneſtly recommend it to all the members belonging to their communion, to give thoſe perſons, who are at preſent held in ſervitude, ſuch good education

* The *Order* here referred to, is, as publiſhed in the extracts of 1786, "That each Preſbytery, in appointing ſupplies to vacant congregations, take order, that every vacant congregation, within their limits, be catechiſed once in the year, in the ſame manner as is required by the order of our Church in congregations ſupplied with paſtors; and that the miniſters appointed to this ſervice be required, at the next meeting of the Preſbytery, to render an account of their fidelity in this reſpect—and that each Preſbytery be required to render an account of their attention to this order, to the Synod, at their next meeting."

education as may prepare them for the better enjoyment of freedom.—And they, moreover, recommend, that masters, wherever they find servants disposed to make a proper improvement of the privilege, would give them some share of property to begin with; or grant them sufficient time, and sufficient means, of procuring, by industry, their own liberty, at a moderate rate: that they may thereby be brought into society, with those habits of industry, that may render them useful citizens.—And, finally, they recommend it to all the people under their care, to use the most prudent measures, consistent with the interest and the state of civil society, in the parts where they live, to procure, eventually, *the final abolition of slavery in America.*

MAY 21, 1788.

THE Synod met according to adjournment, in the First Presbyterian Church, in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened by the rev. Jedidiah Chapman, with a sermon from Ephes. IV. 3, 4.—and continued by adjournments till May 29th.

The Synod took into consideration the Draught of the Form of Government and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America—And having gone through the same, did, on a review of the whole ratify and adopt the said Form of Government and Discipline, as now altered and amended, as the Constitution of the Government and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church in America. And recommend to all their inferior judicatures, strictly to observe the rules laid down therein, in all ecclesiastical proceedings. And they order, that a correct copy be printed; and that the Westminster Confession of Faith, as now altered, be printed, in full, along with it, as making a part of the constitution.

Resolved, That the true meaning of the above ratification, by the Synod is, that the Form of Government and Discipline, and the Confession of Faith, as now ratified, is to continue to be our Constitution, and the Confession of our Faith and Practice, unalterably; unless two-thirds of the Presbyteries, under the care of the General Assembly, shall propose alterations or amendments; and such alterations or amendments shall be agreed to, and enacted, by the General Assembly.

The Synod proceeded to consider the Draught of a Directory for the Worship of God, reported by the committee appointed last year. Dr. Witherspoon, Dr. Smith, and Mr. Woodhull, were appointed a committee to revise the chapter of the Directory entitled, "Of the mode of inflicting Church Censures," and to lay it before the General Assembly, at their first meeting, to be by them considered, and finally enacted.

The

The Synod alſo appointed the ſaid committee to reviſe that part of the Directory which reſpects public prayer, and prayers to be uſed on other occaſions; and to prepare it for printing with the Form of Government and Diſcipline.

The Synod, having gone through the conſideration of the Draught of a Directory for Worſhip, did approve and ratify the ſame; and do hereby appoint the ſaid Directory, as now amended, to be the Directory for the worſhip of God, in the Preſbyterian Church, in the United States of America.—— They alſo took into conſideration the Weſtminſter Larger and Shorter Catechiſms, and having made a ſmall amendment for the Larger, did approve, and do hereby approve and ratify the ſaid Catechiſms, as the Catechiſms of the Preſbyterian Church in the ſaid United States; and order, that the ſaid Directory and Catechiſms be bound up in the ſame volume with the Confeſſion of Faith, and the Form of Government and Diſcipline, and that the whole be conſidered as the ſtandard of our Doctrine, Government, Diſcipline and Worſhip, agreeably to the reſolutions of the Synod, at their preſent ſeſſion.

Ordered, That Dr. Duffield, Mr. Armſtrong and Mr. Greene be a commitee to ſuperintend the printing and publiſhing the aboveſaid Confeſſion of Faith and Catechiſms; with the Form of Government and Diſcipline; and the Directory for the worſhip of God; as now adopted and ratified by the Synod; as the Conſtitution of the Preſbyterian Church in the United States of America. And, that they divide the ſeveral parts into Chapters and Sections, properly numbered.

The Synod, taking into their ſerious conſideration the many and great injuries ariſing to ſociety, by the members thereof, contrary to the ſpirit and expreſs command of our holy religion, going to law with each other,* and carrying on litigious ſuits: Do, therefore, earneſtly, recommend it to every congregation under their care, faithfully to endeavour, in ſuch way as may appear moſt expedient, to prevent law-ſuits, among their members, by having differences of a civil nature accommodated by arbitration; or by an amicable ſuit, when the matters cannot be otherwiſe ſettled. And the Synod earneſtly recommend to all their Preſbyteries, to uſe their utmoſt endeavours to ſecure the ſucceſs of ſo uſeful a meaſure; whereby many evils may be prevented, and various great advantages procured.

The Synod, alſo, earneſtly recommend to every congregation belonging to their body, to take ſpecial care of their poor, or diſtreſſed widows and orphans, and to adminiſter to them all proper relief and aſſiſtance.

The

* Cor. VI. 7, 8.

The Synod enjoin, that exact regiſters of births, baptiſms, marriages, and burials be kept in every congregation.

The Synod recommend, that ſpecial care be taken with reſpect to the principles and characters of ſchool maſters; that they teach the Weſtminſter Catechiſm, and Pſalmody; and that the miniſters, church ſeſſions and deacons or committees, where they conſiſtently can, viſit the ſchools, and ſee that theſe things are done. And where ſchools are compoſed of different denominations, that they invite proper perſons of ſaid denominations to join with them. And the reſpective Preſbyteries are required to pay ſpecial attention to theſe matters, and to uſe their beſt endeavours to have them carried into execution.

The Synod ordered the following regulations, formerly eſtabliſhed, reſpecting the admiſſion of miniſters or probationers, from foreign parts, to be now publiſhed for the more perfect information and direction of the ſeveral Preſbyteries on that head, *viz.*

"Though every Chriſtian Society ought to maintain communion with others, as far as they can with a good conſcience; yet no ſociety is obliged, in order to ſuch communion, to adopt or imitate the irregularities or deficiencies of others, contrary to its own approved and eſtabliſhed rules of procedure. And, if any ſociety, or body of men, are known to be of erroneous principles; or to be lax, or negligent, as to the orthodoxy or piety of thoſe they admit into the miniſtry; in ſuch caſes, none of our Preſbyteries are obliged to receive or employ ſuch perſons as goſpel miniſters or probationers, though producing fair certificates, and profeſſing to adopt our Confeſſion. But if any ordained miniſter or probationer, comes well recommended by thoſe on whoſe teſtimony we can depend, ſuch are to be gladly received, upon their adopting our confeſſion, and promiſing ſubjection in the Lord."——*Enacted* 1764.

"It is, undoubtly, the right of Preſbyteries to converſe with any probationer or miniſter from foreign parts, as far as they find it neceſſary, in order to obtain ſatisfaction reſpecting their orthodoxy and piety; and not receive him implicitly on a certificate, however fair and regular, together with his general profeſſion of adopting the Weſtminſter Confeſſion and Catechiſms. But, if ſuch probationer, or miniſter, ſhall come from a church, or judicature, generally ſuſpected, or known, to be erroneous, or lax and negligent with reſpect to the moral conduct or piety of their candidate or members; or if they ſhall come from any number of miniſters who may convene, without any regular conſtitution, merely for the purpoſe of licencing or ordaining particular perſons; in ſuch caſe, a certificate from ſuch a judicature, or ſuch ordainers,

ordainers: and a general profeſſion of the party's adopting the Confeſſion of Faith, is ſtill leſs ſatisfactory; and renders it highly neceſſary for the Preſbytery to which application ſhall be made, to be more particular and exact in examining the principles of ſuch probationer or miniſter, before they admit him, or employ him in their bounds."——*Enacted* 1765.

At a meeting of Synod, 1773, it was moved, That the Preſbytery to which any miniſter or probationer from a foreign part may offer himſelf for admittance, may be allowed, if they ſee their way clear, to employ him in their vacancies. But that ſuch miniſter or probationer ſhall not be admitted to full memberſhip, till the next meeting of Synod; when their teſtimonials and credentials ſhall be laid before the Synod, to be by them conſidered and judged of, in order to their admiſſion or rejection.—Which being conſidered, was agreed to by the Synod, to regulate the conduct of the Preſbyteries.

The committee appointed to prepare an overture of an act or regulation reſpecting the admiſſion of miniſters and probationers from foreign parts, brought in a Draught; which having been read a firſt and ſecond time, and amended, was unanimouſly approved; and is as follows, *viz.*

Whereas, it is of the highest importance to the interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom, that the greateſt care be obſerved by church judicatures, to maintain orthodoxy in doctrine, and purity in practice, in all their members; this Synod, in addition to the agreement upon this head in the year 1764, and further explained in the year 1765, do, moſt earneſtly recommend to all their Preſbyteries, to be very ſtrict and careful reſpecting thoſe matters; eſpecially in examining the certificates and teſtimonials of miniſters and probationers, who come from foreign churches. And that they be very cautious about receiving them, unleſs the authority of their certificates and teſtimonials be ſupported by private letters; or other credible and ſufficient evidence. And, in order more effectually to preſerve this Synod, our Preſbyteries and Congregations, from impoſition and abuſe: every year, when any Preſbytery may report that they have received any miniſter or probationer from a foreign church, that Preſbytery ſhall lay before the Synod the teſtimonials, aud all other certificates, upon which they received ſuch miniſter or probationer, for the ſatisfaction of the Synod, before ſuch miniſter or probationer ſhall be enrolled as a member of our body. And if the Synod ſhall find the ſaid teſtimonials falſe or inſufficient, the whole proceedings held by the Preſbytery on the admiſſion ſhall be held to be void; and the Preſbytery ſhall not, from that time, receive or acknowledge him as a member of this body, or in miniſterial communion

communion with us.—And, on the other hand, when any miniſters or probationers from any foreign church, ſhall come duly recommended, as above, we will gladly receive them as brethren, and give them every encouragement in our power.——*Done at the meeting of Synod*, 1774.

The Synod, in order to guard the churches under their care againſt danger from the admiſſion of miniſters or probationers of unſound principles, do hereby renew their former injunctions to the reſpective preſbyteries, relative to this matter. And do, alſo, ſtrictly enjoin on every member of this body, under, pain of cenſure, to be particularly careful in this reſpect.——*Done at the meeting of Synod*, 1784.

Resolved unanimouſly, That this Synod be divided, and it is hereby divided into four Synods, agreeably to the act made and provided for that purpoſe, in the ſeſſions of Synod, in the year one thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty-ſix: and that this diviſion ſhall commence upon the diſſolution of the preſent Synod.

Resolved, that the firſt meeting of the General Aſſembly, to be conſtituted out of the aboveſaid four Synods, be held, and it is hereby appointed to be held, on the third Thurſday in May, 1789, in the Second Preſbyterian Church, in the city of Philadelphia, at eleven o'clock, A. M.—and, that Dr. Witherſpoon, or in his abſence, Dr. Rogers, open the General Aſſembly with a ſermon, and preſide until a moderator be choſen.

Resolved, That the Synod of New-York and New-Jerſey meet on Wedneſday the twenty-ninth day of next October, in the Firſt Preſbyterian Church, in the city of New-York, at three o'clock P. M.—and that the preſent moderator, or in his abſence, the ſenior miniſter preſent, open the Synod with a ſermon, and preſide until a moderator be choſen.

Resolved, That the Synod of Philadelphia meet on the third Wedneſday of October next, at eleven o'clock A. M. in the Firſt Preſbyterian Church, in the city of Philadelphia—and that Dr. Ewing, or in his abſence the ſenior miniſter preſent, open the Synod with a ſermon, and preſide until a moderator be choſen.

Resolved, That the Synod of Virginia meet on the fourth Wedneſday of October next, at eleven o'clock, A. M. at New-Providence Church—and that Mr. Sankey, or in his abſence, the ſenior miniſter preſent, open the Synod with a ſermon, and preſide until a moderator be choſen.

Resolved, That the Synod of the Carolinas meet on the firſt Wedneſday in November next, at eleven o'clock, A. M. at Centre Church, in Roan county—and that Mr. Patillo, or in his abſence, the ſenior miniſter preſent, open the Synod with a ſermon, and preſide until a moderator be choſen.

The Synod was then diſſolved.

A

LIST

OF THE

PRESBYTERIES, MINISTERS, PROBATIONERS *and* CONGREGATIONS,

BOTH SETTLED AND VACANT,

WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE

SYNOD OF NEW-YORK AND PHILADELPHIA.

MADE IN THE YEAR 1788.

The Preſbyteries are placed in the order in which they lie from New-York to Georgia incluſive.—The Miniſters according to their ſeniority in the miniſtry, in their reſpective Preſbyteries with the Congregations in which they are ſettled annexed to their names—And the collections annexed to the congregations which contributed in the year 1787, for the purpoſe of printing the *Draught of a Form of Government and Diſcipline*, and defraying other Synodical expences.

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISBURSEMENTS.

PHILADELPHIA:

RE-PRINTED BY JANE AITKEN, No. 20, NORTH THIRD STREET.

1803.

L I S T, &c.

Presbytery *of* Suffolk.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*	*Collections.*
SAMUEL BUEL,	Eaſt-Hampton.	
Noah Weſtmore,	Brook-Haven.	
Sampſon Ocum,	New-Stockbridge, Brotherton, (in the Oneida country.)	
Benjamin Goldſmith,	South-Hold.	
David Roſe,	South-Haven.	
Elam Potter,		
Joſhua Hart,		
Joſhua Williams,	South-Hampton.	
Nathan Woodhull,	Huntington.	
Thomas Ruſſel,	Weſt-Hampton.	
Aaron Woolworth,	Bridge-Hampton.	
Probationers.	*Vacant.*	
Aſa Hillyer,	Jamaica.	
	Hampſtead.	
	Smith-Town.	

Presbytery *of* Dutchess County.

Solomon Mead,	Lower Salem,	
Wheeler Caſe,	Charlotte Precinct.	
Ichabod Lewis,	Philippi.	
Samuel Mills,	Frederickſburg.	
Blackleach Burret,		
John Davenport,	Bedford.	
	Vacant.	
	Poundridge.	
	White Plains.	
	Weſt-Frederickſburg.	
	Providence.	

PRESBYTERY *of* NEW-YORK.

Ministers.	*Congregations.*	*Collections.*
Timothy Jones, *D. D.*	Morris-Town	2 8 0
Aaron Richards,	Rahway	0 10 6
John Rodgers, *D. D.*	New-York	10 2 5
Jonathan Elmer,	New-Providence	
Hugh Knox, *D. D.*	St. Croix	
Abner Bruſh,		
Benjamin Woodruff,	Weſtfield	
Alex. M'Whorter, *D. D.*	Newark	
Azel Roe,	Woodbridge	1 4 0
Nathan Ker,	Goſhen	0 10 0
John Cloſe,	New-Windſor, Newburgh	1 3 0
Jedediah Chapman,	Orangedale	9 16 0
Alexander Miller,		
William Woodhull,		
Jacob Van Artſdalen,	Springfield	1 1 0
William Schenck,	Balls-Town.	
John Warford,	Salem	0 13 0
John Joline,	Mendham.	
Andrew King.	Wallkill	0 15 0
James Glaſsbrook,		
John M'Donald,	Albany	5 14 8
Lemuel Fordham,	Roxborough, and Suckaſunny Plains	

Probationers.
Peter Fiſh,
John Lindley,
John Young,

Vacant.	
South Hanover.	
Elizabeth-Town.	
Connecticut Farms.	
Hardy's-Town.	
Wantage.	
New-Hampſtead.	
Hopewell.	
Staten-Iſland.	
New-Town.	
Cambridge	0 8 0
Kingſbury.	
Eaſt-Ball's-Town.	
Schenectady.	
Curry's Buſh.	
Remſin's Buſh,	
Cherry Valley, John's-Town New-Scotland.	
Harper's-Field.	
Amount in York money	26 17 1
Equal to proclamation, £.	24 14 2

PRESBYTERY *of* NEW-BRUNSWICK.

Ministers.	*Congregations.*	*Collections.*
John Witherſpoon. *D. D.*	Princeton, Preſident of New-Jerſey College	1 12 0
Iſrael Reed,	Bound Brook	1 4 0
John Hannah	Kingwood	1 0 0
Thomas Smith,	Cranbury	1 15 0
John Woodhull,	Freehold	2 5 0
Samuel Smith,	Vice-Preſident of New-Jerſey College	
Philip Stockton,		
James F. Armſtrong,	Trenton	2 0 0
Joſeph Rue,	Pennington	2 0 0
Joſeph Clark,	Allentown	1 8 0
Peter Wilſon,	Independence Mansfield	
William Boyd,	Bedminiſter	1 1 0
Walter Montieth,	New-Brunſwick	1 10 0
James Muir,		
Ira Condict,	Hardwick	1 1 0
	Newton	0 12 6
	Shapanack	0 12 0
Aſa Dunham,	Mount-Bethel Oxford	2 0 0
	Vacant.	
	Trenton, old houſe	1 0 0
	Amwell	1 0 0
	Maidenhead	1 1 0
	Bethelem	1 0 0
	Greenwich	1 4 0
	Nolton	1 1 0
	Shrewſbury	
	Shark River	
	Milſtone.	
Amount in New-Brunſwick Preſbytery,		£. 27 6 6

PRESBYTERY *of* PHILADELPHIA.

James Sproat, *D. D.*	Second Preſbyterian Church Philadelphia	8 9 0
George Duffield, *D. D.*	Third ditto Church Philad.	8 10 0
John Ewing, *D. D.*	Provoſt of the Univerſity of Pennſylvania, Firſt ditto Church Philadelphia.	
John Symonton,	Great Valley	
Francis Peppard,	Allen-Town	
James Boyd,	Newton Benſalem	1 13 0
James Watt,	Cape May	

PRESBYTERY *of* PHILADELPHIA *Continued.*

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*	*Collections.*
William M. Tenant,	Abington, Norrington, Providence	1 8 0
Nathaniel Irwin,	Neſhaminy	0 15 0
Andrew Hunter,	Woodbury	
James Grier,	Deep Run	
George Faitoute,	Greenwich	0 9 3
Aſhbel Greene,	Second Preſbyterian Church, Philadelphia.	
	Amount, £.	21 4 3
	Vacant.	
	Fairfield	
	Deerfield	
	Pitts-Grove	
	Penn's-Neck	
	Timber Creek	
	Tinnicum	

PRESBYTERY *of* NEW-CASTLE.

Robert Smith, *D. D.*	Pequea	1 5 9
William M'Kennan,	Redclay Creek, and Wilmington	
Colin M'Farquhar,	Donegal	0 15 0
James Latta,	Cheſnut Level	1 0 9
John M'Creary,	Whiteclay creek, Head of Chriſtiana.	
Alexander Mitchel,	Upper Octorara and Doe Run.	
Thomas Reid,	Drawyers	1 17 6
James Anderſon,	Middleton, Cheſter County,	0 15 0
Thomas Smith,	Middleton, Delaware, Pencader	0 19 3
Daniel Jones,		
William R. Smith,	Wilmington	1 2 6
Nathaniel W. Semple,	Leacock, Lancaſter and Middle Octorara,	0 17 6
James Munro,	Weſt-Notingham	1 0 0
John E. Finley,	Foggs Manor	
John Burton,	St. George's	1 2 0
Nathan Grier,	Forks of Brandywine	
Probationers.	*Vacant.*	
Matthew Tate,	New-Caſtle	
	Chriſtana Bridge	0 15 0
	Eaſt-Nottingham	
	New-London	
	Little Britain	
	Amount, £.	14 6 6

PRESBYTERY *of* LEWIS.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*	*Collections.*
John Miller,	Dover and Duck Run	
Matthew Wilſon. *D. D.*	Lewis-Town, Cool Spring, and Indian River	
Jacob Ker,	Monokin, Wicomico	
John Rankin,	Buckingham, Blackwater	
Samuel M'Maſters,	Snowhill, Pill's Creek, Rehoboth	3 10 0
William M'Kee,	Murderkiln, Three Runs, St. Johnſton	
	Vacant.	
	Vienna	
	Fiſhing Creek	
	Accomak	
	Broad Creek	

PRESBYTERY *of* BALTIMORE.

James Hunt,	Bladenſburgh, Captain John	5 18 10
John Slemons,	Slate Ridge, Chance Ford	2 4 6
Patrick Alliſon, *D. D.*	Baltimore-Town	7 18 0
Iſaac S. Keith,	Alexandria	3 0 0
Stephen B. Balch,	George-Town on Potowmac.	1 15 0
George Luckey,	Bethel, Centre,	1 10 0
	Amount £.	22 6 4
	Vacant.	
	Hopewell.	
	Frederick-Town.	
	Soldier's Delight.	

PRESBYTERY *of* CARLISLE.

John Elder,	Paxton, Derry.	
John Hoge.		
Hugh M'Gill,	Tuſcarora, Cedar Spring,	
Charles Neſbit, *D. D.*	Preſident of Dickinſon College	
James Martin,	Piney Creek,	0 15 0
Robert M'Mordie,		

PRESBYTERY *of* CARLISLE *Continued.*

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*	*Collections.*
Robert Cooper,	Middle Spring	1 15 0
James Lang,	Falling Spring, East-Cannegocheague	1 12 0
John Craighead,	Rocky Spring	
John King,	Upper Weſt-Cannegocheague	1 10 0
Hugh Vance,	Tuſcarora, in Virginia, Back Creek,	1 10 0
Thomas M'Farren,	Lower Eaſt Cannegocheague	1 10 0
	Lower Weſt Cannegocheague	1 3 4
Robert Davidſon, *D. D.*	Carliſle	2 0 0
John Black,	Upper Marſh Creek	1 0 0
Samuel Dougal,	Path Valley.	
John M'Knight,	Lower Marſh Creek	0 14 0
	Tom's Creek	0 10 10
John Linn,	Sherman's Valley.	1 15 0
Samuel Waugh,	Eaſt Pennſborough, Manahan	1 15 0
David Bard,	Bedford.	
Joſeph Henderſon,	Great Conewago	0 15 0
Matthew Stephens,	Derry, Waine, on the Juniata.	
James Johnſon,	Kiſhacoquillas.	
John Johnſon,	Hart's Log, Shaver's Creek.	
Samuel Wilſon,	Big Spring.	
James Snodgraſs,	Hanover.	
Hugh Morriſon,	Sunbury, Northumberland town, Buffalo Valley.	
Probationers.	*Vacant.*	
Joſeph Caldwell,	York-Town.	
	Hagar's-Town, Shepherd's-Town, Charles-Town, Falling Waters, Cool Spring, Romney, Patterſon's Creek, Great Cove, Great Aughwick, Standing Stone, Franks-town, Penn's Valley, Chilliſquaque, Warriors Run, Munſcy, Lycoming, Mahoning, Fiſhing Creek, Dick's Gap, Sherman's Creek, Upper Paxton.	

PRESBYTEY *of* REDSTONE.

James Finley,	Rehoboth, Roundhill.
John Clark,	Lebanon, Bethel

PRESBYTERY *of* REDSTONE *Continued.*

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*	*Collections.*
Joſeph Smith,	Buffalo, Croſs Creek.	
John M'Millan,	Chartiers, Pigeon Creek.	1 12 6
James Power,	Mount Pleaſant. Sawickly.	
Thaddeus Dodd,	Ten Mile.	
James Dunlap,	Redſtone, Delap's Creek.	
Samuel Barr,	Pittſburgh,	
	Vacant.	
	Fairfield, Donegal, Unity, Salem, Poke Run, Long Run, Glades of Sandy Creek, Muddy Creek, Morgan-Town, George's Creek, Pike Run, Montuier's Run, Potato Garden, Mill Creek King's Creek, Short Creek, Three Ridges.	

PRESBYTERY *of* LEXINGTON.

John Brown, William Graham, James M'Connel	New-Providence	1 5 0
Archibald Scott, Edward Crawford	Bethel and Brown's Church	1 5 0
John Montgomery,	Winchester, Opecken and Cedar Creek,	4 16 10
Benjamin Erwin,	Moſſey Creek, Cook's Creek,	0 14 0
William Wilſon, Moſes Hoge.	Auguſta.	
John M'Cue,	Companion, Good Hope.	
	Vacant.	
	Concrete	17 0
	Timber Ridge & Hall's Church	2 8 9
	Tinkling Spring, Windy Cove, Pleaſant Run, High Bridge, Falling Spring, Oxford Roan Oak, Jackſon's River, Locuſt bottom, Sinks, Little Levels, Tigers Valley, Little River, Rocky Spring.	
		£. 15 6 7

PRESBYTERY *of* HANOVER.

Miniſters.	*Congregations*	*Collections.*
Richard Sankey,	Buffalo Creek	1 5 0
John Todd,	Providence, Bird, Fork of Pomunky.	3 16 10
James Waddel,		
William Irvine,	North Garden, Rich Cove. Mountain Plains, and Dee Eſs.	
John Blair Smith	Cumberland, Briery,	5 0 0
James Mitchel	Peaks of Otter.	
John D. Blair,	Hanover, Henrico.	7 12 5
Probationers.	*Vacant.*	
William Mahon,	Cub Creek	1 5 0
	Rock fiſh, Concord, Hat Creek, Fauquier, Blueſtone, Lancaſter, head of Smiths River.	
	£.	18 19 3

PRESBYTERY *of* ORANGE.

Henry Patillo,	Graſſy Creek and Nut Buſh.	
David Caldwell,	Buffalo, and Allamance.	
Samuel M'Corkle	Thyatira and Third Creek	2 14 0
James Hall,	Bethany, Concord, and Fourth Creek.	3 12 0
Robert Archibald,	Rocky river and Poplar Tent	1 12 0
James M'Kee,	Steel Creek	1 4 0
David Barr,	Sandy River and Tomahawk	
Jacob Leake,	Little river, E & O, New hope.	
Daniel Thatcher,	£.	9 2 0
Samuel Huſton,	*Vacant.*	
	Center, Clear Creek, Caſswell, Cheſnut Spring, Chegſtat Spring, Deep River, Goſhen in Duplin, Goſhen in Lincoln, Golden Grove, Hopewell, Upper and Lower Hico, Upper and Lower Haw River, Hawfield, Hunting Creek, Hollows, Joppa, Jerſey Settlement, Knob Creek, Long Creek, Little River, Little Britain, Mountain Creek, Moores Creek, Muddy Creek, Providence, Pleaſant Garden, Quaker Meadows, Reed Fork, Speedwell, Smyrna, Stony, Sandy and Sugar Creek.	

Presbytery of Abington.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*	*Collections.*
Charles Cummins,	Sinking Spring	
Hezekiah Balch,	Mount Bethel	
John Coſſon,	Providence	
Samuel Doak,	Salem	
Probationers.	*Vacant.*	
James Balch,	Providence	
	Unity, Upper Holſtein, Crab Orchard, Cheſnut Ridge, Ebbing Spring, Forks of Holſtein, North Fork, Valley Church, New-Bethel, Nobs, Concord, Buffaloe, Hopewell, New Providence, Big Pigeon, Little Pigeon, Boyd's Neck, Little River.	

Presbytery of South-Carolina.

James Edmonds,		
John Harris,		
Joſeph Alexander,	Bullocks Creek	
John Simpſon,	Fiſhing Creek	
Thomas Reeſe,	Salem	
Thomas H. M'Caule,	Jackſons' Creek	
James Templeton,		
Francis Cummins,	Bethel	
Robert Finley,	Waxhaw	
Robert Hall,	Saluda and Upper Long Cane.	
Robert Mecklin,	Rocky river, and Lower Long Cane.	
Probationers.	*Vacant.*	
John Newton,	Bruſh River, Indian Town, Williamſburgh, Rocky Neck, Beaver Creek, Cedar Creek, Catholic, Betheſda, Shiloh, Hopewell, Nazareth, Pacolet, Fair Foreſt, Purity, Upper and Lower Union, Indian Creek, Ebenezer, Little River, Duncans Creek, Rocky Creek, Ninety Six, Golden Grove, 23 Mile Creek, Fairfield, Beaver Dam, Reedy Branch, Cuffee Town, Unity, Providence, Sherrils Creek, Bethſalem, Richmond Church, Smyrna.	
William C. Davis,		
Robert M'Culloch.		

PRESBYTERY *of* TRANSYLVANIA.

Miniſters.

David Rice,
Thomas Craighead,
Adam Rankin,
Andrew M'Clure,
James Crawford.

No return of the Names of the Congregations.

Total Amount, £. 176 7 10

DISBURSEMENTS.

	£.	s.	d.
To the Janitor, for attendance at the meeting of the Synod, May 1786.	3	5	0
To Francis Bailey, printer, for printing the Draught of a Form of Government and Diſcipline, &c.	18	16	0
To the ſtated Clerk, for tranſcribing the minutes of the Synod,	3	0	0
To the Janitor, for attendance on Synod, &c. May 1787,	6	2	2
To Samuel Loudon, printer, for printing the Overture of the Form of Government and Diſcipline, and the Draught of the Directory,	57	7	6
To a Book for keeping Accounts.	0	2	0
To the Janitor, for attendance on Synod, &c. May 1788,	3	14	0
Total Amount £.	92	4	8

Remains in the hands of the Treaſurer, £. 84 3 2

Miniſters, — — —	177
Probationers, — — —	11
Congregations ſupplied with Miniſters, —	215
Vacant Congregations, — — —	204

N. B. The Congregations under the care of Tranſylvania Preſbytery are not included.

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

A. D. 1789.

In the thirteenth year of the Independence of the

UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

RE-PRINTED BY JANE AITKEN, NO. 20, NORTH THIRD STREET.

.....

1803.

MAY 25, 1789.

Ordered, *That Dr.* Witherspoon, *Dr.* Duffield, *and* Isaac Snowden, *Esq. be a committee to select such parts of the minutes of the General Assembly, as they may judge will be of general advantage; and to have* 500 *copies thereof printed; and forwarded to be distributed among the Presbyteries.*

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America met, agreeably to the appointment of the late Synod of New-York and Philadelphia, in the Second Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia; and was opened with a sermon, by the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, from 1. Cor. iii. 7.

Dr. Rogers was chosen moderator; and Dr. Duffield and Mr. Armstrong clerks.

Dr. Ewing, Dr. Wilson, Dr. M'Whorter, Dr. Robert Smith and Mr. Ried, ministers, with Mr. Crawford and Mr. Slaymaker, elders, were appointed a committee to prepare a draught of rules for the government of the General Assembly in their proceedings;—which was accordingly done, and the draught having been considered and amended, was approved; and is as follows, *viz.*

I. The moderator shall take the chair at the hour to which the assembly stands adjourned—Shall immediately call the members to order; and on the appearance of a quorum shall open the session with prayer; and cause the minutes of the preceeding session to be read—And on every adjournment shall conclude with prayer.

II. The moderator may speak to points of order, in preference to other members; rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order; subject, to an appeal to the house, by any two members.

III. The General Assembly, at every meeting, shall appoint a committee of bills and overtures, to prepare and digest business for the Assembly.—Any person thinking himself aggrieved by this committee may complain to the Assembly.

IV. Petitions, references, and appeals; and, usually, all new propositions tending to general laws, shall be laid before the committee of bills and overtures before they be offered to the Assembly.

V. A motion made must be seconded, and afterwards repeated by the moderator, or read aloud, before it is debated. And every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the moderator, or any member, require it.

VI. Any member, who shall have made a motion, shall have liberty to withdraw it before any debate had thereon; but not afterwards, without leave of the Assembly.

VII. On questions of order, adjournment, postponement commitment, or the previous question, no member shall speak more than once.—On all other questions each member may speak twice; but not oftener, without express leave of the house.

VIII. When a question is under debate no motion shall be

be received, unleſs to amend it; to commit it; for the previous queſtion; or to adjourn.

IX. The previous queſtion ſhall be in this form "ſhall the main queſtion be now put," and until it is decided ſhall preclude all amendment, and farther debate of the main queſtion.

X. An amendment may be moved on any motion; and ſhall be decided before the original motion.

XI. If a queſtion under debate contains ſeveral parts, any member may have it divided; and a queſtion taken on each part.

XII. Every member, when ſpeaking, ſhall addreſs himſelf to the chair; and ſhall treat his fellow members, eſpecially the moderator, with decency and reſpect.—If a member act diſorderly, it ſhall be the duty of the moderator, and the privilege of the other members, to call him to order.

XIII. A queſtion ſhall not be called up, or reconſidered, at the ſame ſeſſion of the aſſembly at which it has been decided; unleſs by conſent of two thirds of the members who were preſent at the deciſion.

XIV. Any member, who may think himſelf aggrieved by a deciſion of the General Aſſembly, ſhall have his diſſent, or proteſt, with his reaſons, entered on the records of Aſſembly; or, filed among their papers, if given in before the riſing of the aſſembly.

XV. If any member act indecently, or diſorderly, contrary to theſe rules, the moderator ſhall reprove, or otherwiſe cenſure him, as the aſſembly ſhall judge proper.—And, if any member ſhall think himſelf denied of any right; or unjuſtly blamed, by the moderator, he ſhall not ſpeak diſreſpectfully to him; but modeſtly require the deciſion of the houſe in the caſe.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That an addreſs be preſented to the preſident of the United States. And Dr. Witherſpoon, Dr. Alliſon, and Dr. Samuel Smith, were appointed a committee to prepare a draught, which having been brought in, and amended, was approved; and is as follows,

TO THE
PRESIDENT
OF THE
UNITED STATES.

SIR,

THE General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian Church, in the United States of America, embrace the earlieſt opportunity in their power to teſtify the lively and unfeigned pleaſure which they, with the reſt of their fellow-citizens, feel on your appointment to the firſt office in the nation.

We

We adore Almighty God, the author of every perfect gift, who hath endued you with such a rare and happy assemblage of talents, as hath rendered you equally necessary to your country, in war and in peace.

Your military atchievements ensured safety and glory to America, in the late arduous conflict for freedom; while your disinterested conduct, and uniformly just discernment of the public interest, gained you the entire confidence of the people. And in the present interesting period of public affairs, the influence of your personal character moderates the divisions of political parties; and promises a permanent establishment of the civil government.

From a retirement more glorious to you than thrones and sceptres, you have been called to your present elevated station, by the voice of a great and a free people; and with an unanimity of suffrage that has few if any examples in history. A man more ambitious of fame, or less devoted to his country, would have refused an office in which his honours could not be augmented: and where they might possibly be subject to a reverse.

We are happy that God has inclined your heart to give yourself once more to the public. And we derive a favourable presage of the event from the zeal of all classes of the people, and their confidence in your virtues; as well as from the knowledge and dignity with which the federal councils are filled. But we derive a presage even more flattering from the piety of your character. Public virtue is the most certain mean of public felicity; and religion is the surest basis of virtue. We therefore esteem it a peculiar happiness, to behold in our chief magistrate, a steady, uniform, avowed friend of the christian religion; who has commenced his administration in rational and exalted sentiments of piety; and who, in his private conduct, adorns the doctrines of the gospel of Christ; and, on the most public and solemn occasions, devoutly acknowledges the government of divine Providence.

The example of distinguished characters will ever possess a powerful and extensive influence on the public mind; and when we see, in such a conspicuous station, the amiable example of piety to God, of benevolence to men; and of a pure and virtuous patriotism, we naturally hope that it will diffuse its influence; and that eventually the most happy consequences will result from it. To the force of imitation, we will endeavour to add the wholesome instructions of religion. We shall consider ourselves as doing an acceptable service to God, in our profession, when we contribute to render men sober, honest and industrious citizens, and the obedient subjects of a lawful government. In these pious labours, we hope to imi-

tate

tate the moſt worthy of our brethren of other chriſtian denominations; and to be imitated by them: aſſured, that if we can by mutual and generous emulation, promote truth and virtue, we ſhall render an eſſential ſervice to the republic; ſhall receive encouragement from every wiſe and good citizen; and above all, meet the approbation of our divine maſter.

We pray Almighty God, to have you always in his holy keeping. May he prolong your valuable life, an ornament and a bleſſing to your country; and at laſt, beſtow on you the glorious reward of a faithful ſervant.

Signed by order of the General Aſſembly.

JOHN RODGERS, Moderator.

Philadelphia, *May* 26, 1789.

Dr. M'Whorter and Mr. Roe, with the moderator, miniſters: and Col. Bayard and Mr. John Broome, elders; were appointed, a committee to preſent the above addreſs.

Ordered, That the ſeveral preſbyteries be particularly attentive to preſcribed forms, when ſuch may be had, in all official papers to be made out; agreeably to the conſtitution of this church.

It was overtured, and agreed, That, in order to promote and ſtrengthen the union of the body, the General Aſſembly ſhould warmly recommend to the reſpective ſynods to take order, that the preſbyteries under their care be particularly attentive, to appoint and ſend their due number of delegates to the General Aſſembly, agreeably to the conſtitution.

Reſolved, That the ſeveral ſynods be directed to ſend up their ſynod books, annually, to be laid before the General Aſſembly for their inſpection. And, that they annually report to the General Aſſembly the number of their preſbyteries, their members, their licentiates, their candidates, deaths, and removals; and alſo the number of vacant congregations within their reſpective bounds; and the more effectually to ſecure the above information, it was ordered that the ſeveral preſbyteries ſend up annually, duplicates of the returns of their members, licentiates, &c. by their delegates to the General Aſſembly. And Dr. Robert Smith and Dr. Samuel Smith, were appointed a committee to prepare a draught of a letter on theſe heads, to be ſent to the ſeveral ſynods, which having been brought in, and amended, was approved, and is as follows, viz.

To

To the Rev. Synod of to meet at
on the day of A. D. 1789.

THE General Assembly, afflicted at the circumstances, both of distance, and perhaps of poverty, that so often prevent a full, and respectable, representation of our church in its supreme judicatory, hath thought it proper to address the several Synods, within this body, on this interesting subject. The dignity of our church, its weight and influence in the United States, and even the utility of its ordinances, to the great ends of religion, will depend much on the unity of our councils; and on the order and efficiency of our government. While the interest of religion, ought to be our first and ruling object, we ought not to forget how necessary it is, for that great purpose, to preserve our character as a body; and our consequence in the republic, in comparison with other denominations of christians. Without a common intelligence, and concert, in our measures, our respectability will be diminished; and our efforts for the public good, and for the promotion of religion, will be weakened by becoming divided. Division of sentiment, and perhaps, in the end, alienation of mind, will result from division of councils; and the want of concert, in that great source of power which ought to pervade and unite the whole body.

The Assembly, impressed with these views, think it necessary to urge, in the most earnest manner, the respective synods, to take effectual measures that all the presbyteries send up, in due season, their full representation. And in as much as the expences of the delegates from remote presbyteries must be much greater than their ordinary finances will allow; and the length of their absence from their pastoral charges must be attended with inconvenience to the people; the Assembly recommend to every synod to provide a fund; or to enjoin it upon their presbyteries, to provide separate funds; for defraying those expences, by collections annually made from every congregation, and deposited in the hands of a treasurer; and during the absence of their delegates to furnish their congregations with proper supplies, to maintain the public worship of God. And that the Assembly may be possessed of a complete knowledge of the whole church under their direction, and see that perfect consistency and order be preserved in it; they have ordered, that the synod books, of the several synods be sent annually up to the place of their meeting, for their inspection. And they have farther ordered, that proper returns be annually made from the synods, of the number of their presbyteries, their members, their licentiates, their candidates, deaths, and removals. And also the number of vacant congregations within their respective

pective bounds. And that their knowledge on this ſubject may be the more complete and certain, they have ordered that the preſbyteries compoſing the ſynods, ſhould ſend np duplicates of ſaid returns by their delegates to the Aſſembly. Praying that you may enjoy all peace, union, and proſperity in the work of the Lord, we are, dear brethren, your affectionate fellow labourers in his common vineyard.

Signed by order,
JOHN RODGERS, Moderator.

Ordered that a copy of the above letter ſigned by the Moderator, in the name of the General Aſſembly be ſent to each of the ſynods.

The Aſſembly took into conſideration the ſending of miſſionaries among the frontier ſettlements; and appointed Dr. Alliſon and Dr. Samuel Smith a committee to prepare a draught of a minute on that head, which being brought in was approved and adopted; and is as follows, *viz.*

Reſolved, That each of the ſynods be requeſted, and they are hereby requeſted, to recommend to the General Aſſembly at their next meeting, two members well qualified, to be employed in miſſions among the frontier inhabitants; for the purpoſe of organizing churches, adminiſtering ordinances, ordaining elders, collecting information reſpecting the religious ſtate of thoſe parts; and propoſing the beſt means of eſtabliſhing a goſpel miniſtry among the people. And, in order to provide means for defraying the neceſſary expences that may attend ſuch miſſions, it is ſtrictly enjoined on the ſeveral preſbyteries, to have collections made during the preſent year, in all the congregations under their care, and forwarded, with all convenient ſpeed, to Iſaac Snowden Eſq. the treaſurer of the General Aſſembly.

Reſolved, That the committee appointed to ſuperintend the printing the conſtitution of the preſbyterian church in the United States, have a number of copies printed, not leſs than one thouſand nor more than fifteen hundred: and bound in ſuch manner as may beſt promote the ſale and to draw upon the treaſurer of the Aſſembly for the price of printing and binding the ſame. And that each preſbytery have ſuch number of the ſaid copies ſent to them as they may require. And the Aſſembly earneſtly recommended to the reſpective preſbyteries, to pay particular attention to have the ſum expended in printing, &c. reimburſed to the fund, from the ſale of the books. The General Aſſembly, having finiſhed the buſineſs of their meeting, adjourned till the third Thurſday of May 1790, to meet at eleven o'clock A. M. on that day, in the firſt preſbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia.

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

A. D. 1790 and 1791.

In the fourteenth and fifteenth years of the Independence of the UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY *R. AITKEN & SON*, No. 22. MARKET STREET.

M.DCC.XCI.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

Preſbyterian Church in the United States for the year 1790.

THE Reverend Meſſrs. Nathan Ker and Joſhua Hart were appointed miſſionaries, on the frontier ſettlements of New-York and Pennſylvania, to the weſt branch of the Suſquehanna, for at leaſt three months, from an early day in June;---to preach the goſpel, adminiſter other ordinances, organiſe churches, ordain elders, collect every uſeful information they can about the religious ſtate of thoſe parts, and lay before the aſſembly the reſult of their enquiries reſpecting the moſt effectual means of eſtabliſhing a goſpel miniſtry among the people; together with the probable proportion of the different denominations and the number of our vacancies, carefully diſtinguiſhing thoſe who are able and willing to ſupport a miniſter from ſuch as are of a different deſcription. It was at the ſame time ordered, that the treaſurer advance to the miſſionaries fifty dollars each, and that they receive one hundred dollars each including what may be received by them on their tour, and the ſum advanced before their departure; and of this they are to render an account at their return.--------No other miniſters having been recommended for the ſame employment likely to fulfil it, the aſſembly renewed the order of the laſt year on this ſubject to the ſynods;---with an addition,---to apply to the ſeveral Preſbyteries under their care, to nominate ſuitable perſons, who may be ſent

ſent among our frontier vacancies as miſſionaries; and tranſmit their opinions from time to time, on the moſt promiſing methods of advancing the great end in view; and that Preſbyteries be informed that collections have been received to aſſiſt in defraying their neceſſary expences.

The following queſtion was propoſed by the committee of overtures viz. Ought ſuch perſons to be re-baptized, as have been offered in baptiſm by notoriouſly profligate parents, and baptized by miniſters of the ſame deſcription?---On this queſtion the General Aſſembly after a full inveſtigation adopted the following determination viz.

Reſolved---that it is a principle of this church, that the unworthineſs of the miniſters of the goſpel does not invalidate the ordinances of religion diſpenſed by them.---It is alſo a principle, that as long as any denomination of chriſtians is acknowledged by us a church of Chriſt, we ought to hold the ordinances diſpenſed by it as valid, notwithſtanding the unworthineſs of particular miniſters. Yet, inaſmuch as no general rule can be made to embrace all circumſtances, there may be irregularities in particular adminiſtrations, by men not yet diveſted of their office either in this or in other churches, which may render them null and void.---But as theſe irregularities muſt often reſult from circumſtances and ſituations, that cannot be anticipated and pointed out in the rule, they muſt be left to be judged of by the prudence and wiſdom of church ſeſſions, and the higher judicatories to which they may be referred. In ſuch caſes, it may be adviſeable to adminiſter the ordinance of baptiſm in a regular manner, where a prophane exhibition of the ceremony may have been attempted.---Theſe caſes and circumſtances however are to be enquired into by the church ſeſſions, and referred to a preſbytery before a final deciſion.

The following reſolution was moved and unanimouſly agreed to, viz. Whereas there exiſted, before the late revolution, an annual convention of the clergy of the congregational churches, in New-England, and of miniſters

miniſters belonging to the Synod of New-York and Philadelphia, which was interrupted by the diſorders occaſioned by the war;---this aſſembly, being peculiarly deſirous to renew and ſtrengthen every bond of union between brethereo ſo nearly agreed in doctrine and forms of worſhip as the members of the congregational and preſbyterian churches evidently are, and remembering with much ſatisfaction the mutual pleaſure and advantage produced and received by their former intercourſe,---did reſolve, that the miniſters of the congregational churches in New-England, be invited to renew their annual convention with the clergy of the Preſbyterian church:---And the aſſembly did, for this purpoſe, appoint the Rev. Dr. Rodgers of New-York, and the Rev. Dr. M'Whorter of New Ark in New-Jerſey, to be a committee, to take ſuch meaſures for the obtaining of the propoſed object as they may judge to be moſt effectual; and to report their proceedings to the General Aſſembly, at their next meeting.

Philadelphia,

Philadelphia, 18 *May* 1791.

THE General Aſſembly of the preſbyterian church in the United States of America met agreeably to adjournment in the ſecond preſbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia and was opened with a ſermon by the moderator Doct. Robert Smith, from Iſaiah 62 chap. 6th and 7th, verſes.

I have ſet watchmen upon thy walls, O Jeruſalem, which ſhall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not ſilence;

And give him no reſt, till he eſtabliſh, and till he make Jeruſalem a praiſe in the earth.

The Rev. John Woodhull was choſen moderator, and the Rev, Meſſrs. Andrew Hunter and John B. Smith, were choſen clerks.

Ordered, that Mr. Nathan Ker, Mr. John B. Smith and Mr. Aſhbel Green, Miniſters, and Mr. Iſaac Snowden, Elder, be a committee to ſelect ſuch parts of the proceedings of the General Aſſembly, as they may think proper, and that they have 1500 copies printed, and a ſuitable number forwarded to each ſynod and preſbytery under the care of the General Aſſembly: and that they be authoriſed to draw on the treaſurer for the amount of the expences ariſing from the execution of this order.

It was alſo ordered, that the ſame committee prepare, and report to this houſe, as ſoon as poſſible, an addreſs to the churches under their care.

It appeared that the ſeveral ſynods complied with the recommendation of the General Aſſembly at their laſt ſeſſions, to enjoin upon the preſbyteries, within their bounds, to be punctual in ſending commiſſioners to repreſent them in General Aſſembly.

It appeared, on enquiry, that all the preſbyteries repreſented in the preſent aſſembly have complied with the injunction of the General Aſſembly, reſpecting contributions for the ſupport of miſſionaries to the Frontiers, except the preſbytery of Lewis, who had not ſufficient and timely information concerning ſaid injunction.

Agreeably

Agreeably to the appointment of the General Aſſembly, laſt year, directing Dr. Rodgers, and Dr. M'Whorter to correſpond with the congregational churches in Connecticut, in order to renew and ſtrengthen the bonds of union between thoſe churches, and the preſbyterian church in America, Dr. M'Whorter reports that ſome progreſs has been made in opening a plan of correſpondence with ſaid churches.----That three modes of correſpondence are propoſed for conſideration, viz. 1ſt. By letter from a committee of this body, with a committee of the general aſſociation of Connecticut. 2d. By reviving a convention ſimilar to one which ſubſiſted between thoſe bodies before the late war. 3d. By ſending delegates reciprocally from each body, who ſhall ſit in their reſpective meetings, to anſwer the important purpoſe deſigned by this correſpondence.

On motion, reſolved, That in order to carry into effect the propoſed plan for a correſpondence with the congregational churches in New England, a committee conſiſting of Dr. Witherſpoon, Dr. Rodgers, Dr. M'Whorter, Mr. Chapman, Dr. Samuel S. Smith, Mr. Tenant and Mr. Auſtin, or any three of them, be, and they are hereby appointed to meet at New-Haven on the ſecond Wedneſday in September next, to conſult with ſuch miniſters from the New England churches as may be there preſent, on the ſubject in contemplation, and to determine on ſuch plan of correſpondence and intercourſe as ſhall appear eligible. And that the proſpect of accompliſhing the deſire of the General Aſſembly in this appointment may be the more favourable, Dr. M'Whorter is hereby directed to write immediately to Dr. Timothy Dwight of Connecticut, and inform him of this meaſure, requeſting him, at the ſame time, to lay it before the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, that they may be prepared to meet at the time abovementioned, and do what they may think expedient in this concern.

The ſynod of Philadelphia made no report of the ſtate of the churches in their bounds; but a member of that

ſynod

ſynod ſtated to the houſe, that repeated and preſſing application had been made by the ſynod to their ſeveral preſbyteries to attend the ſeſſions of ſynod, and make their reports; but that, they have never been able to obtain a repreſentation from all their preſbyteries, nor reports from them ſo as to enable the ſynod to make a report to this aſſembly. Whereupon, the General Aſſembly determined, that though the ſynod might have endeavoured to obtain a full report from their preſbyteries, yet, the ſynod was culpable in not making their report as far as it could have been done, and in not ſtating as a body to this aſſembly the difficulties which prevented them from being more full and explicit. The General Aſſembly therefore exhort the ſynod of Philadelphia to endeavour to bring in an accurate report at the next meeting of this body. And they moreover expreſs their grief and diſapprobation at the conduct of the preſbyteries, in not ſending forward to this aſſembly duplicates of their reports to their ſynod agreeably to a known order.

The miſſionaries appointed by the laſt General Aſſembly to viſit the frontiers proceeded to give an account, at ſome length, of their proceedings during their miſſion; whereupon the aſſembly declared their entire approbation of the induſtry zeal and fidelity of their miſſionaries in the execution of their arduous undertaking.

The General Aſſembly laſt year having recommended to the ſeveral ſynods to nominate miſſionaries, for the purpoſes expreſſed in their minutes upon the ſubject of miſſions to the ſettlements on the frontiers, on enquiry it was found that the ſynod of New-York and New-Jerſey did nominate Dr. M'Whorter, and Mr. Aaron Condict a probationer under the care of New-York Preſbytery as proper perſons to be employed as miſſionaries by the aſſembly.

The ſynod of Philadelphia, recommended to the Preſbyteries under their care to nominate miſſionaries to the preſent Aſſembly, and that in conſequence of this, the Preſbytery of Philadelphia, did nominate the Rev. James Boyd,

Boyd, and Mr. Robert Cathcart a probationer under their care as proper perſons to be employed in a miſſion by the aſſembly.

It was alſo found, on enquiry, that the ſynod of Virginia had not complied with the ſaid recommendation, but they had adopted meaſures ſuited to their local ſituation, to carry into effect the general deſign of the Aſſembly in the appointment of miſſionaries, though not exactly in the order preſcribed in the minutes of this body---which meaſures having been ſtated in a narrative of the proceedings of the ſynod, by one of its members, the aſſembly were pleaſed with them, conſidered them uſeful to the church, and heartily approved of the zeal and diligence manifeſted by that body in carrying thoſe meaſures into effect---moreover they did earneſtly recommend to the ſaid ſynods, to perſevere in carrying on thoſe meaſures which it appears, that they have heretofore adopted with ſo much ſucceſs.

It further appeared, that the ſynod of the Carolinas did not comply with the ſaid recommendation, for the want of due information, upon the ſubject---but had alſo taken ſome pains to ſupply the extenſive frontier of their country with the preaching of the goſpel.

The committee appointed to examine the treaſurer's account, reported, that they have executed that duty---and that they find, that he has ſold 94 copies of the confeſſion of faith for £21 13 6 and has received ſundry collections amounting to £70 11 9 and that there is a balance of £52 12 9 Pennſylvania currency, and £118 7 0 ſpecie, in his hands.

The committee of bills and overtures, tendered to the General Aſſembly the following overture, viz.

" A preſbytery having proceeded for ſome time in the " trials of, a candidate for the goſpel miniſtry---ſtop his " trials: he being alſo otherwiſe laid under cenſure by " their direction, and under their cognizance: he ſome " time afterwards, without acquittal or recommendation " from the preſbytery which had ſtopped his trials, ap-

" plies to another preſbytery from which he obtains li-
" ſence to preach. He then applies to a third preſbyte-
" ry, or others apply for him, for liberty to preach or
" ſettle in their bounds---Query, ought that third preſby-
" tery to receive him as a regular licentiate and permit
" him to preach in their bounds, or any of their vacan-
" cies to proſecute a call for him, before he ſhall have
" produced an acquittal and recommendation from the
" preſbytery that had put a ſtop to his trials, and under
" whoſe cognizance he was otherwiſe cenſured"---

Upon mature conſideration, of this queſtion, the General Aſſembly determined that it is fully anſwered by the exiſting rules of this body.

The General Aſſembly taking into conſideration the diſtance of the ſeat of the ſynod of the Carolinas from the ſeat of the General Aſſembly, and eſpecially the peculiar ſtate of the currency of North-Carolina---on motion,

Reſolved, that the ſynod of the Carolinas be allowed, ſo to manage the matter of ſending miſſionaries to places deſtitute of the goſpel and its ordinances, as may appear to that ſynod moſt conducive to the intereſt of religion in their bounds; provided, that the above ſynod ſend annually to this aſſembly, a particular account of their proceedings on the above ſubject, with a regular ſtatement of the money that may be collected, and diſburſed for the ſupport of the above miſſionaries.---

Mr. Irwin, Mr. Joſeph Clark, and Mr. Gilbert Snowden, were appointed a committee to wait upon the truſtees of the college of New-Jerſey, at their next meeting in behalf of this General Aſſembly, to enquire into the ſtate of the fund appropriated to the education of pious youth, which was depoſited in the treaſury of that college, by the ſynod of New-York and Philadelphia.

Reſolved, that the practice of this aſſembly in inviting correſpondent members, ought not to be uſed as a precedent in future.

On motion, reſolved, that Dr. Witherſpoon, Dr. M'Whorter, Mr. Green, Mr. Graham, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Templeton be a committee to deviſe meaſures for the collecting of materials neceſſary for a hiſtory of the Preſbyterian church in North America, and that they report the ſame to this houſe as ſoon as poſſible.

On motion, reſolved, that Mr. N. Ker. Mr. Irwine, Mr. Smith, Mr. Graham, Mr. Blair, Dr. Sweazy, Dr. Woodruff and Mr. Alexander, be a committee to prepare and report to this houſe as ſoon as poſſible a plan to raiſe a permanent fund for the ſupport of miſſionaries and for other purpoſes of the General Aſſembly.

On motion, ordered, that the committee appointed to confer with delegates from the aſſociate reformed, and the reformed proteſtant, Dutch ſynods make their report to the General Aſſembly in May 1792.

The committee appointed to deviſe meaſures for the collecting of materials neceſſary for a hiſtory of the Preſbyterian church in America reported.

" That to procure materials for a complete hiſtory of " the Preſbyterian church for the United States from its " beginning, the following information will be neceſſary: " viz. who were the firſt miniſters in America, from whence " they came---the internal and relative ſtate of the churches there where they fixed themſelves, and when--The " ſituation of things ſo far as it affected the formation " and eſtabliſhment of a Preſbyterian church---extracts " from royal inſtructions to governors in the colonies re- " lating to eccleſiaſtical matters-- laws of the colonies af- " fecting religious liberty---accounts of proſecutions in " conſequence of thoſe laws---when each Preſbyterian " congregation in the United States was firſt formed--- " and its particular hiſtory from that period to the pre- " ſent time---what congregations have exiſted which are " now extinct---The cauſes of their extinction---when " Preſbyteries were firſt formed in the United States--- " when ſynods---when the General Aſſembly.

" If

" If the General Assembly should enjoin upon each " of their members to furnish as particularly as may be " the history of his own church, it is probable, that " materials may be collected without much difficulty--- " the sooner it is done, the better; as time, accident " and the death of ancient people will daily destroy some " sources of information--The materials might be brought " to the next meeting of the assembly and deposited with " their clerk.

" Your committee would farther subjoin, that the " old records of Presbyteries, and synods should as far " as possible be produced---and that Mr. Hazard be ap- " plied to for leave to inspect his collection of state pa- " pers."

Upon motion, resolved, that it be enjoined upon each Presbytery strictly to order their members to procure all the materials for forming a history of the Presbyterian church in this country, as far as may be in the power of each member and bring in the same to their Presbytery, and that the Presbyteries forward the said collections of materials to the next General Assembly; and that both Presbyteries and members be careful to conform themselves to the directions contained in a minute printed in the extracts from the records of this house on this subject.

The synod of New York and New Jersey made their report which is as follows, viz. The synod of New York and New Jersey report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America agreeably to their direction in a letter dated May 25, A. D. 1789:---That the synod consists of four Presbyteries; Suffolk, Dutchess, New York, and New Brunswick.

1. Suffolk Presbytery consists of twelve ministers, five of whom have pastoral charges, and seven have not charges---they have one licentiate; five vacant congregations each of which is supposed able to support a minister as appears by their report to the synod.

2. Dutchess Presbytery consists of six ministers, all of whom have pastoral charges:---They have one licentiate:

One

One of their members has joined the anabaptiſts:---They have four vacant congregations able to ſupport two miniſters, as appears by their report to the ſynod.

3. New York Preſbytery conſiſts of twenty ſeven miniſters;---twenty four of whom have paſtoral charges and three have not charges:---they have four licentiates;---one member has been removed by death; and one member has been diſmiſſed to join the Preſbytery of Baltimore: they have eight vacancies able to ſupport each a miniſter; and nine not yet able; as appears by their report to the ſynod.

4. New Brunſwick Preſbytery conſiſts of fourteen miniſters; thirteen of whom have charges and one has not; they have one licentiate; one member has been removed by death: They have three vacancies, each able to ſupport a miniſter, and ſix not able, as appears by their report to the ſynod.

The ſynod of Virginia did not bring in any report.

The ſynod of the Carolinas made their report which is as follows---viz: to the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian church in the United States at their ſeſſions in May 1791.

Reverend Fathers and Brethren:

The ſynod of the Carolinas beg leave to expreſs their grateful ſenſe of the care and attention of the General Aſſembly in their addreſs dated 1789. It has given us no ſmall degree of anxiety that diſtance and other circumſtances have rendered it ſo inconvenient for our ſeveral Preſbyteries to ſend up a more full and reſpectable repreſentation to our ſupreme judicatory. We have earneſtly recommended this important matter to our Preſbyteries, and hope the time is coming when a regular and ſtated attendance will be more convenient. In the mean time, in compliance with your order, we have directed our ſynod book to be prepared and ſent on, together with the return of the number of our Preſbyteries, members, licentiates, &c. Signed by order

Hezekiah Balch, Moderator.

On

On motion, reſolved, that in caſe of an appeal or complaint, entered in an inferior judicatory to a ſuperior, if the appellant or appellants do not appear at the firſt meeting of the ſuperior judicatory, proteſt may be admitted at the inſtance of the reſpondents, at the laſt ſeſſion of ſuch meeting, that the appeal is fallen from and the ſentence ſo appealed from, ſhall be conſidered as final.

The committee appointed to deviſe a method to raiſe a permanent fund for the ſupport of miſſionaries and for the other purpoſes of the General Aſſembly, made the following report; viz,

The committee of finance beg leave to report, that in the opinion of your committee the common expences of the General Aſſembly, and of ſupporting its miſſionaries, ought to be made a common burden, and equalized as far as poſſible, that for this purpoſe a general and permanent arangement ought to be made on this ſubject---they therefore ſubmit the following reſolutions, viz.

Reſolved 1ſt. That it be enjoined on the ſeveral Preſbyteries ſubordinate to this aſſembly, that they take effectual meaſures to collect money annually from all the churches under their juriſdiction, and to forward the ſame yearly to the treaſurer of the General Aſſembly, with the name and ſtate of their churches ſettled and vacant, and the ſum received from each.

2. That the ſeveral ſynods uſe their endeavours to promote this collection, and that for this purpoſe they annually call the Preſbyteries of which they are compoſed to account and enquire into their diligence herein. The preſbyteries ſhall do the like with reſpect to their members as often as occaſion may require.

3. That the monies ſo collected ſhall be placed in one fund, and appropriated to defraying the incidental expences of the General Aſſembly and the expences of the commiſſioners at a reaſonable allowance to each, according to the diſtance from which he comes---provided, that the ſum allowed to each commiſſioner ſhall not exceed one dollar for every forty miles in coming to and returning from

from the assembly, and half a dollar per day for his expences during the time, he shall attend his duty in the assembly---and whereas, this assembly has it much at heart to supply with the means of eternal life, the multitudes, who are ready to perish on the frontiers of the United States and have already adopted temporary expedients for that purpose, and as the demand is likely to be permanent and should be supplied by permanent funds, therefore, resolved

4. That the synods of Virginia and of the Carolinas, continue to prosecute the plans for this purpose, which they have formed or may form under the direction and allowance of the General Assembly, and account annually for their conduct, and report their success in this business.

5. That the Presbyteries composing the synods of New-York and New-Jersey, and that of Philadelphia, use their best endeavours to forward yearly to the general treasurer a collection from each of their churches settled and vacant, with an account of the sums received from each, and that those synods be enjoined to see that the said presbyteries do their duty in respect to this collection. The fund thence arising to be applied to the support of missionaries to preach the gospel, organize churches, and administer ordinances on the frontier parts of the United States, and to no other purpose whatever, save that each fund shall be equally charged with the expence of the necessary printing done by order of the General Assembly.

6. This assembly presuming on the concurrence of its successors do resolve, lastly, that there shall be printed annually or as often as shall be thought expedient, a statement of the receipts and expenditures arising from said collections, in which shall be detailed all the churches settled and vacant, the sum, (if any) received from each, for what purpose received and how applied. And that each presbytery shall be furnished with at least as many copies as there are churches subordinate thereto, to be transmitted to the churches for their information and satisfaction. All which is submitted, &c.

On

On motion, reſolved, that the recommendations of the General Aſſemblies of the years 1789 and 1790, to encourage an accurate impreſſion of the holy ſcriptures making by Iſaac Collins, of the ſtate of New-Jerſey be continued---and that it be recommended to every preſbytery and every individual of this aſſembly, to make returns of all ſubſcriptions made for this purpoſe, and that they be particular to ſignify what number of ſubſcribers may wiſh to have Oſtervald's notes printed with the bible, remembering that theſe notes cannot be printed, conſiſtent with the views of the ſubſcribers among other denominations, otherwiſe than at the end of the impreſſion; and it is alſo recommended that theſe returns be made as ſpeedily as poſſible, to Iſaac Snowden, Eſq. in Philadelphia, treaſurer of the General Aſſembly.

On motion, reſolved, that no judicatory or private member, ſhall certify any perſon's character as having been good for a ſpace of time, without mentioning if he has been under proceſs of ſcandal during that time, and the iſſue of it.

On motion, agreed, that the miſſionaries appointed by the aſſembly laſt year, as well as Mr. Smith and M. Graham on the part of the ſynod of Virginia, bring in a written account of the miſſions, with the ſucceſs attending the meaſure, to be printed with the extracts from the minutes of this aſſembly.

In conſequence of the above motion Mr. N. Ker, and Mr. Hart produced the following report.

" Your miſſionaries ſpent three months in that buſi-
" neſs aſigned to them by the aſſembly, in the following
" vacancies, viz. In the ſtate of New-York, Middleton,
" Mama-Cotton, Still-Water, Hebron, Granville, Weſt-
" field; King's-Bay, Fort-Edward, Fort-Miller, Pal-
" mer-Town, Freehold, New-Galloway, Johnſtown,
" Cherry-Valley, Spring-Field, White's-Town, Fort-
" Schuyler, the Oneida nation of Indians, the Onandagos,
" the Cayugas, Catharinds-Town, New-Town, Cooper's
" Town at the bottom of Lake Otſego, Unadilla, Clin-

ton

" ton, Obquaga, Shenang, and Owaga---in Pennſylva-
" nia; Tioga, Pitt's-Town, King's-Town, Plymouth,
" Wilkſborough, Hannover, and Lackaway---In moſt of
" theſe places, the people are not formed into a church
" ſtate---In ſeveral of them the numbers are very conſi-
" derable and in moſt there appeared a great attention to
" the preaching of the goſpel---Your miſſionaries were
" treated with much reſpect, and in many places they
" were requeſted in the moſt affectionate manner to of-
" fer the thanks of the people to the General Aſſembly
" for their pious attention in ſending miſſionaries amongſt
" them, and importunately requeſted that the favour
" might be repeated---your miſſionaries found in many
" places ſerious, well-inſtructed, and apparently pious
" people; but many of a different character---they bapti-
" zed a very conſiderable number of children, and gave
" advice in ſundry places reſpecting the Organization of
" churches, and the ſteps neceſſary to be taken in order
" to the ſettlement and ſupport of the goſpel miniſtry.

" In the Northern, and Weſtern parts of the ſtate of
" New-York, there are great numbers of people and
" that number increaſing with amazing rapidity---there
" are but few preachers of any ſort, and many of the
" inhabitants are at a great diſtance from the regular ad-
" miniſtration of ordinances---therefore your miſſiona-
" ries are of opinion, that it will be proper to ſend out
" at leaſt one ordained miniſter as a miſſionary this year,
" in order that the hopes of the pious may be raiſed, the
" ignorant may be inſtructed, and that the foundation
" of goſpel churches may be laid in this extenſive and
" growing country, in ſuch a manner that diſcipline may
" be regularly exerciſed therein."

Mr. Smith and Mr. Graham brought in the following report reſpecting the miſſionaries, in Virginia, viz.

" The ſynod taking into ſerious conſideration the ſtate
" of the vacant congregations within their bounds; and
" viewing with much concern the miſerable ſtate of mul-
" titudes, who have none to break the bread of life a-

" mongſt them, and are periſhing for lack of knowledge;
" and being affected with the ſituation of the youth, upon
" whom the hope of the church in future ſeems to de-
" pend, who are likely to be brought up in ignorance and
" profanity; deſirous to remedy theſe evils, as far as
" practicable, in dependence upon the great head of the
" church, have reſolved to adopt the following plan.

" 1. That we will take all proper care to ſeek for men
" of knowledge, integrity and piety, who may travel
" throughout our bounds, as miſſionaries to preach the
" goſpel to catechiſe and inſtruct the youth, and to diſ-
" charge ſuch other parts of miniſterial duty as they may
" be authorized to perform 2d. That there ſhall be a
" committee of ſynod appointed, conſiſting of four mi-
" niſters and four elders, who ſhall be called the com-
" miſſion of ſynod, to receive the recommendation of
" ſuch men from the reſpective preſbyteries, to examine
" into their credentials, and fitneſs for the diſcharge of
" ſuch an office, and who ſhall give them ſuch directi-
" ons and inſtructions as the exigencies of different pla-
" ces in their wiſdom may require; that they ſhall meet
" annually and oftener if thought neceſſary; and that
" any two miniſters and as many elders of the commiſ-
" ſion as ſhall be convened at the place appointed ſhall
" have ſufficient power to proceed to buſineſs.

" 3. That it be recommended to the different preſby-
" teries, to raiſe ſuch contributions as they may be able
" in their reſpective bounds which ſhall be put into a ge-
" neral fund for the ſupport of ſuch miſſionaries.

" 4. That there ſhall be a treaſurer appointed in whoſe
" hands the money raiſed by the different preſbyteries,
" ſhall be depoſited, who ſhall keep a fair book of ac-
" compts, give and take receipts for all money received
" or paid away by him, and ſhall make a return to the
" commiſſion of ſynod, or to the ſynod as often as may
" be required. And that he pay out ſuch ſums upon
" the order of the commiſſion to the different miſſiona-
" ries as may be appropriated to them, and all thoſe col-

" lections

" lections or donations that may be received by the dif-
" ferent miſſionaries from the ſocieties ſhall be account-
" ed for by the ſaid miſſionaries to the commiſſion of
" ſynod.

" In conſequence of the above arrangement, the reve-
" rend Meſſrs. William Graham, John B. Smith, James
" Mitchel, and William Wilſon, miniſters, and Meſſrs.
" Benjamin Rice, Charles Allen, John Lyle, and John
" Wilſon, elders; have been appointed, to conſtitute the
" commiſſion of ſynod. Mr. Naſh Le' Grand, a probati-
" oner under the care of the preſbytery of Hannover, was
" choſen a miſſionary in April 1790. He commenced
" his circuit in the beginning of the following June, and
" paſſed through the counties of Bedford, Rockbridge,
" Botetourt, Montgomery, Auguſta, Rockingham, and
" Frederick, an extent of 3 or 400 miles, with a marked
" ſucceſs, in engaging the attention of the old and young
" to the concerns of their immortal ſouls, and in a gene-
" ral attendance on the means of grace wherever he travel-
" led.

" In October of the ſame year, the commiſſion ap-
" pointed Mr. Robert Marſhall, a probationer under the
" care of Redſtone preſbytery, and Meſſrs. Cary, Allen,
" and William Hill, probationers under the care of Hanno-
" ver preſbytery, their miſſionaries. Their young preach-
" ers had two very extenſive circuits aſſigned to them, of ſe-
" veral hundred miles, Meſſrs. Allen and Marſhall, ſpent
" about three months in the vallies between the Allegha-
" ny and Apalachian mountains, and three more on the
" eaſt ſide of the Blue Ridge. In this tour they preach-
" ed in a great number of counties, and generally to peo-
" ple not formed into religious ſocieties. Mr. Hill had
" a north-eaſtern circuit aſſigned to him in the low country
" near the bay of Cheſapeak. He alſo preached in a great
" number of counties and ſeveral conſiderable towns.

" The miſſionaries in their tour, had the happineſs to
" ſee the young people in various places, uncommonly
" attentive and affected under their preaching and in pri-
" vate converſation, many of thoſe who were heads of

" families

" families appeared anxious to encourage the labours of " the miſſionaries at ſtated periods amongſt them. There " were ſeveral inſtances of perſons awakened to a ſenſe " of the guilt and danger of ſin; and of formal profeſ- " ſors brought to know their miſtake. Their circuit was " too extenſive and their progreſs too rapid, to effect any " great, permanent changes in the external church-ſtate " of the people. Yet in a number of places, ſeveral fami- " lies aſſociated together and made application for further " ſupplies, to the commiſſion. In Henry county, on " Smith's river, in Franklin, on Cheſnut; in Halifax, " Pittſylvania, Amelia, Nottoway, Lunenburgh, Bote- " tourt, and Lancaſter counties the proſpect of this ſort is " the moſt favourable." N. B. The ſalary allowed theſe " miſſionaries is two hundred dollars per annum; paid at " the expiration of each half year."

The reverend Mr. James Boyd, and Mr. Aaron Condict were appointed by the General Aſſembly, to proceed on a miſſion to the frontier ſettlements of New-York and Pennſylvania, to the weſt branch of the Suſquehannah for at leaſt three months, commencing their miſſion as ſoon as convenient; in order to preach the goſpel and perform all the duties preſcribed to the miſſionaries laſt year, and to make report to the next General Aſſembly.

It was ordered, that the treaſurer advance the ſum of fifty dollars to each miſſionary, and agreed that they ſhall receive for their ſervices one hundred dollars each, including the fifty dollars before mentioned, and whatever ſums they may receive beſides during their miſſion.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to the Churches under their care.

Dear Friends and Brethren,

BY the blessing of a gracious providence, the churches of our communion in America which were originally few and inconsiderable, have multiplied with rapid increase, are spread over a wide extent of country and become respectable as a religious society. But while we recollect with grateful hearts, the indulgent care of the great head of the church, in granting us such favours, it is our duty to attempt to secure and improve them. He that hath promised to be with his church to the end of the world, and whose faithfulness cheers his people in the most trying scenes, hath enjoined it upon them to be active and industrious in the use of means for promoting his interest amongst men. A spirit of union, piety and discipline is particularly necessary for this purpose. By this, our church was revived and became flourishing in our fathers days, by this it hath been cherished to our own times and by this it must be secured. Union in sentiment, in counsels, and in common efforts amongst the members of the same religious society have always proved favourable to their enlargement and stability, but without piety and discipline, their progress would be a curse. By an unhappy relaxation in these respects, both in the officers and members of our church, our growing prospects of the increase of the presbyterian body, and of the promoting of vital christianity have been, of late, in various places obscured.

We have it to regret that there is a visible declension in many of the private members of the church with regard to their attendance on the public means of religion---with regard to their respectful attention to the comfort and encouragement of ministers in the discharge of their important

tant duties and with regard to the public ſpirit neceſſary to give vigour to the meaſures propoſed in particular churches for promoting their ſecular and ſpiritual concerns as a body. We cannot but fear too, that the miniſters of our church have contributed to this declenſion in ſeveral inſtances, by indolence, timidity, and a defect of public ſpirit in their ſtations.

But while we lament the languid ſtate of vital piety in our land and church in general, ſuffer us to remind you, that this melancholy circumſtance ſhould be our moſt powerful incitement to uſe every mean and exertion, which the ſpirit and providence of God uſes to bleſs, for the proſperity and encreaſe of his church. Let us then repeat, that the prayers of private chriſtians and miniſters for the effuſion of the divine ſpirit, their exemplary lives, their diligent attention to the ſtated and ordinary means of grace, their union and harmony in ſupporting and executing the plans which may be deviſed for the promoting of practical godlineſs, and regular diſcipline, will be eſſentially neceſſary to the attainment of this important purpoſe.

Exhorting you therefore in the moſt earneſt manner to theſe duties, and reſting our hopes for ſucceſs principally on the diſcharge of them, we would alſo recommend to your ſerious attention ſome meaſures of a general and public nature, which have been adopted with a view to the advancement of the ſame great end; and which muſt receive your hearty concurrence in order to be rendered effectual.

You will ſee by a ſtatement which accompanies this letter, that we have made proviſion for the ſending of miſſionaries to the frontiers of our country; you will alſo ſee that the effects of theſe miſſions in ſome places have been ſuch as to open a pleaſing proſpect of advancing the redeemer's kingdom in the ſalvation of men, and of ſending the light of the goſpel to thoſe who have hitherto been involved in the groſſeſt darkneſs. To carry into effect ſo noble a deſign, we cannot doubt that all who have

a *ſupreme*

a *supreme* regard to the glory of God and the salvation of their fellow-men, will cheerfully contribute.

Suffer us therefore to urge you, and we do it with the more confidence, as you will at once perceive our disinterested views in the matter, to furnish those annual supplies of money which may be necessary for the common interest of our body; and to give your countenance to the measure in general. The honor of God, the eternal salvation of precious souls, the increase of the society to which you belong, and may we not add, your own peace and comfort, all conspire to prompt you to ardor in this generous undertaking. We are ready to anticipate the times when by exertions similar to these, our holy religion will extend its influence over the vast regions of this Western continent, and songs of salvation be heard from its remotest corners: and is it possible, that pious christians, that friends to the best interests of the world, that men of public spirit, should withold their aid, in bringing forward so glorious an event? whatever others may do, surely all who sincerely love the prosperity of Zion, will cheerfully exert themselves to promote such measures as to your representatives appear calculated to promote her best interests, and the honor of her Lord. Christians! can you look around you, and behold such multitudes of souls, ignorant of that Saviour whom you love, and through whom only they can be saved; ignorant of those truths so important to happiness which you have received, and even perishing for the lack of knowledge--- and not be willing to do any thing, to do *every thing* in your power to rescue them from such a condition!

But permit us, dear brethren, to intreat you to beware of resting in external forms, or the aids which you may charitably devote to strengthen the interests of religion, as if this were to be your principal concern. It would be a melancholy circumstance, if, while you contribute to send the means of light to others, you, yourselves should remain in darkness; if, while you are instrumental in

bringing

bringing others to the knowledge and the love of the Lord Jesus, you should not love him in sincerity.

But what shall we say to the ministers in our communion? Is it necessary to suggest motives to them, to exert themselves with one heart and one soul, to carry into execution the measures which we recommend? We rely with confidence, that they will step forward with alacrity to enforce our applications to the people: Yet this is but a part of what is to be expected from the ministers of Jesus Christ. What unanimity in councils, what purity of manners, what abstractedness from the world, what zeal for the glory of God, and what concern for the salvation of souls ought to mark their character! They are to be guides to the erring, they are to prompt the inactive, they are to suggest the proper public measures for promoting the cause of God, and they are to be examples to the world. Will they not assist the well intended efforts of their brethren by their hearty concurrence, their exhortations, their prayers, their activity in the discharge of their ministerial duties, and their holiness of walk and conversation.

To the patronage of Almighty God we commit the churches of our denomination which we address. And may the God of peace who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever---Amen.

Signed by order of the General Assembly,

ASHBEL GREEN, Stated clerk of Assembly,

JOHN B. SMITH, Clerk *pro tempore*

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

A. D. 1792.

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M.DCC.XCII.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

Minutes of the General Assembly

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in the United States for the Year 1792.

May 17th, 1792.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the United States of America, met, agreeably to adjournment, in the Presbyterian Church at Carlisle, and was opened with a sermon, by the Revd. Mr. Woodhul, the last year's moderator.—From 2 *Tim.* iv. 1, 2. *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing, and his kingdom. Preach the word, be instant in season, and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.* Constituted with Prayer.

The Assembly then proceeded to the choice of a moderator and clerks, and the Rev. Dr. John King, was chosen moderator, and the Rev. John Black and Drury Lacy, were chosen clerks.

The General Assembly, proceeded to inquire into the fulfillment of the missions to the frontiers, which had been appointed at the sessions of last year: when it appeared that Mr. Condict, did not execute the appointment which was made. Mr. Boyd, by order of the assembly, read before them a narrative of the manner, in which the mission was fulfilled by him, accompanied with remarks and observations on the subjects which had been recommended to his attention, by the former Assembly: on the hearing of which, the fidelity and diligence of Mr. Boyd, in the discharge of the important trust committed to him, received the full approbation of the assembly.

The assembly taking into consideration the importance of continuing missions to the Frontiers, and the expediency of making arrangements for securing permanent advantages to the church from those missions; appointed the Rev. Messrs. Boyd, Austin, and M'Millan, with Doctor Tilton, and Mr. M'Lene, a committee, to suggest those measures most proper, in their opinion, for the assembly to adopt, in order to effect this good purpose:—and to make report as soon as possible.

The synods of Virginia and of the Carolinas, having failed to to make an official report to the General Assembly, of the measures adopted by them respectively, for supplying the Frontiers of the

the United States with the ordinances of the gospel; On motion, ordered, that Messrs. Graham and Lacy, be a committee, to prepare and bring in a written account of the prosecution of the plans which were stated to the General Assembly last year, from the synod of Virginia, respecting missions within their bounds. And that Doctor M'Corkle, and Mr. Porter, be a committee to report such plan as may have been adopted for a similar purpose, with respect to the synod of the Carolinas. The assembly do moreover repeat their injunction to those synods, to send up an annual account of the proceedings in the premises and of their success to the General Assembly.

The several Presbyteries were called upon for their reports, in regard to the order of the General Assembly upon the subject of a collection of materials for a history of the Presbyterian Church in America; when it appeared that they were diligently engaged in the business referred to them, and that satisfactory communications respecting it might be ready for the next General Assembly:—Whereupon, ordered, that the several presbyteries be careful to continue their attention to this subject, and be prepared to report upon it to the next General Assembly.

Resolved—That the Committee heretofore appointed to enquire into the state of the funds placed in the hands of the trustees of New-Jersey college by the synod of New-York and Philadelphia be continued, and directed to prosecute the objects of their appointment and report to the next General Assembly.

An extract from the will of Mr. James Lesly deceased; attested by John Broom and John Bingham executors of said Lesly, was introduced and read, and ordered to be recorded on the minutes of the General Assembly—and is as follows.

Item. "I give and bequeath all the residue of my estate real and "personal to the trustees of the college of New-Jersey, called Nas- "sau Hall, and to their Successors, to be by the said Trustees and "their successors constantly kept at interest on good security: "and it is my will that the interest arising from the said residue "of my estate shall be appropriated to the Education of poor and "pious youth of the presbyterian denomination, for the work of "the gospel ministry, and to no other purpose whatsoever: pro- "vided nevertheless, that if it should so happen that the said in- "terest should in any year be more than sufficient to pay for the "education of such youth in that year actually educated on this "fund, then and in that case the said Trustees may and shall ap- "propriate the surplus of such interest for such year, towards the "support of a missionary or missionaries to preach the gospel and "administer its ordinances to the frontier inhabitants of these "United States; if the General Assembly of the Presbyterian "Church in these states shall judge it necessary to send missiona- "ries to the Frontiers in the year in which such surplus shall arise; "and provided that such surplus shall not exceed thirty Pounds. "But if the said surplus shall exceed thirty pounds New-York

"currency

" currency, in that case my will is that thirty pounds of it only " be appropriated to the support of missionaries as aforesaid, and " that the residue of such surplus be added to the principal sum, " and put out at interest with it. And if it shall happen that the " General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church aforesaid shall " not judge it necessary to send missionaries to the Frontiers as " aforesaid, in the year in which such surplus shall arise, then it is " my will that the whole of such surplus shall be added to the Ca- " pital or principal sum and put out at interest with it.

A true Copy, Examined by

JOHN BROOM,
JOHN BINGHAM. } *Executors.*

New-York May 7th. 1792.

The Minutes of the convention of the committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, and of the General Association of the state of Connecticut, were taken into consideration, an extract of which is as follows.

" Considering the importance of union and harmony, in the christian church, and the duty incumbent on all its pastors and members to assist each other, in promoting, as far as possible, the general interest of the Redeemer's kingdom; and considering further, that divine Providence appears to be now opening the door for pursuing these valuable objects, with a happy prospect of success.

This convention are of opinion, that it will be conducive to these important purposes—

That a *standing committee of correspondence*, be appointed in each body, whose duty it shall be, by frequent letters, to communicate to each other, whatever may be mutually useful to the churches under their care, and to the general interest of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

That each body should from time to time, appoint a committee consisting of three members, who shall have a right to sit in the others general meeting, and make such communications as shall be directed by their respective constituents, and deliberate on such matters as shall come before the body; but shall have no right to vote.

That effectual measures be mutually taken to prevent injuries to the respective churches, from irregular and unauthorised preachers.

To promote this end, the convention judge it expedient, that every preacher, travelling from the limits of one of these churches into those of the other, shall be furnished with *recent testimonials*, of his regular standing, and good character as a preacher, signed by the moderator of the Presbytery, or association, in which he received his license, or, if a minister, of his good standing and character as such, from the moderator of the presbytery, or asso-

ciation

ciation, where he laſt reſided, and that he ſhall previouſly to his travelling as a preacher into diſtant parts, further receive a recommendation, from one member, at leaſt of a ſtanding committee to be hereafter appointed by each body, certifying his good qualifications as a preacher.

Alſo, that the names of this ſtanding committee, ſhall be mutually communicated and alſo that every preacher travelling, and recommended as above, and ſubmitting to the ſtated rules of the reſpective churches, ſhall be received as an authoriſed preacher of the goſpel, and cheerfully taken under the patronage of the preſbytery, or aſſociation, within whoſe limits he ſhall find employment as a preacher, And

That the proceedings of the reſpective bodies on this report, be communicated to our brethren of the congregational and preſbyterian churches throughout the ſtates."

Upon mature deliberation, the aſſembly unanimouſly and cordially approved of the ſaid plan, and to carry the ſame into effect, appointed—The Rev. Doctor John Rogers, Dr. John Witherſpoon and Doct. Aſhbel Green, to be a committee of correſpondence, agreeably to the ſaid plan: and it is moreover agreed, that this aſſembly, will ſend delegates, to ſit and conſult with the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, and receive their delegates to ſit in this aſſembly, agreeably to another article of the plan, as ſoon as due information ſhall be received that it is adopted on the part of the General Aſſociation of Connecticut.

The Revd. Doctor M'Knight, Dr. M'Whorter, Mr. James Woodhull, Dr. S. S. Smith, Dr. Aliſon, Dr. Neſbitt, Mr. John B. Smith, Mr. Graham, Mr. Lacy, Mr. M'Call, Mr. M'Donald, and Doctor M'Corkle,* were appointed a ſtanding committee to certify the good qualifications of the preachers travelling to officiate in the bounds of the aſſociation of the ſtate of Connecticut; and it was moreover agreed, that any preacher travelling as aforeſaid, ſhall have at leaſt the name of one of the committee, who ſhall belong to the ſynod, from whoſe bounds he came.

Agreeably to the injunction of the General Aſſembly laſt year to the ſeveral preſbyteries, on the ſubject of contributions for the purpoſe of raiſing permanent funds, the preſbyteries rendered in their reports reſpectively.

Ordered that the ſynodical reports be brought in and read.

" The ſynod of New-York and New-Jerſey report to the Ge-
" neral Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian Church in the United States
" of America, agreeably to their direction in a letter dated May
" 25th 1789, that the ſynod conſiſts of five preſbyteries, Albany,
" Dutcheſs, Long Iſland, New-York and New-Brunſwick."

1. " That the Preſbytery of Albany conſiſts of ſeven miniſters,
" four of whom have paſtoral charges and three have not char-
" ges

* By an after order, Revd. Aaron Woolworth, of Long Iſland, was added to this committee.

" ges. They have nineteen vacant congregations ten of which " are each able to support a minister and nine are not yet able and " they have two lecentiates under their care as appears by their " report to synod. N°. 1.

" 2. That the presbytery of Dutchess consists of five ministers " four of whom have pastoral charges and one has no charge. They " have four vacant congregations two of which are able each to " support a minister and two are not able—one of their members " has been removed by death Aug. 24. 1790, as appears by their " report to the synod. N°. 2.

" 3. That the presbytery of Long-Island consists of twelve mi- " nisters, eight of whom have pastoral charges and four have not " charges, they have five vacant congregations four of which are " supposed able each to support a minister and one is not yet able, " as appears by their report to synod. N°. 3.

" 4. That the Presbytery of New-York consists of twenty-two " ministers nineteen of whom have pastoral charges, one has the " care of the Academy a Hackinsack and two have not charges— " they have six vacant congregations two of which are able each to " support a minister and four are not yet able—they have one licen- " ciate, and one of their members has been removed by death in " October 1790, as appears by their report to synod. N°. 4.

" 5. That the presbytery of New-Brunswick consists of fifteen " ministers twelve of whom have pastoral charges, one is president " and one vice president of the college of New-Jersey and one has " no charge—they have ten vacant congregations, one of which is " able to support a minister in a single capacity, four in their pre- " sent united state are able to support two ministers and five are " not able, and they have four licentiates under their care, as ap- " pears by their report to synod. N°. 5.

JOHN RODGERS, Stated Clerk of Synod.

Philadelphia, October 21st, 1791.

" The synod of Philadelphia, report to the General Assembly " of the presbyterian church, in the United States of America, " agreeably to their direction; that the synod consists of five " presbyteries: viz. Philadelphia, New-Castle, Carlisle, Lewes " and Baltimore.

" 1. Philadelphia presbytery, consists of thirteen ministers; " eleven of whom have charges and two of whom have not charges: " they have five licentiates; nine vacancies, of which four are able " to support each a minister, three are able in connection to sup- " port a minister, and two are not able: they have during the " year past dismissed a candidate to join the presbytery of " New-Brunswick, installed one of their members as minister of " one of their vacant congregations, licensed one candidate to " preach the gospel, and put calls into the hands of two candidates " which are accepted: they have likewise given attention to the

order

order of the General Assembly, respecting contributions. All of which will appear by their report to the synod, No. 1.

" 2. New-Castle presbytery, consists of sixteen members, fifteen " of whom have charges and one has no charge; they have five " vacancies, three of which are able to support a minister separately, " and two of which are able in connection to support a minister; " they have four licentiates; during the year past, they have install- " led one of their members, as minister of the united congregations " of New-Castle and Christiana Bridge; they have likewise used " their endeavours to raise contributions for the funds, established " by the General Assembly:—all of which will appear by their " report to the synod, No. 2.

" 3. Carlisle presbytery, consists of twenty six ministers; twenty " two of whom have charges and four have not charges; they have " nineteen vacancies,—of which eleven are not yet able to support " a minister,—three taken in connection, are able to support a mini- " ster;—two others taken connectedly are also able;—and three " are able separately to support a minister; they have three licen- " tiates; during the year past, they have licensed one candidate; " they have dismissed one to join the presbytery of Lexington; the " have ordained one to the work of the ministry; they have given " some attention presbyterially to the raising of contributions for the " funds of the General Assembly, but what has been the effect of " their measures cannot at present be ascertained,—all of which " will appear by their report to synod, No. 3.

" 4. Lewes Presbytery, consists of five ministers, all of whom have " charges; they have three licentiates; they have six vacancies,— " two of which are able in connection to support a minister,—three " others, of which taken connectedly are able to support a minister, " and one not able: during the year past, they have put a call " from three of their vacancies into the hands of one of their can- " didates; they have licensed two candidates; and two congregati- " ons have raised contributions for the funds established, by order " of the General Assembly,—all of which will appear from their " report to the synod, No. 4.

" 5. Baltimore Presbytery, from which they synod has not been " able to obtain any report; as none of their members have at- " tended the synod, for these two years past.

Signed by Order of the Synod,

WILLIAM M. TENANT, Moderator.

" The Synod of Virginia Report that they consist of four Pres-
" byteries; viz. Hanover, Redstone, Lexington, and Transylvania.
" The presbytery of Hanover consists of ten ordained ministers,
" the Revered Messrs. John Todd. James Waddell, William Ir-
" vine, John B. Smith, Archibald M'Robert, James Mitchel,
" John D. Blair, Drury Lacy, William Mahon and Nash Le'
" Grand, all settled pastors of particular churches, and they have
" eight vacant congregations. They have two licenciates who are
" under the direction of the commission of synod, and four candi-
" dates, viz. William Cahoon, James Sumer, Samuel Brown, and
" Moses Waddle.

" Redstone Presbytery, consists of twelve ordained Ministers.
" the Rev. Messrs. James Finley, John Clark, Joseph Smith, John
" M'Millan, James Power, Thadeus Dodd, James Dunlap, Joseph
" Paterson, James Hughes, John Brice, John M'Phrrin and Samuel
" Porter, all settled pastors of particular churches, Mr. Robert
" Finley, an ordained minister of Redstone Presbytery, has taken a
" dismission in order to go to Kentuckey. Mr. Robert Marshall, a
" licenciate of Redstone presbytery, is under the care and direction
" of the commission of synod. They have also two candidates un-
" der trials, for the gospel ministry, George Hill and William
" Swan,—Mr. John Hanna formerly a candidate, is dismissed from
" trials. They have twenty four vacant congregations.

" The presbytery of Lexington consists of ten ordained Ministers
" The Reverend Messrs John Brown, William Graham, Archi-
" bald Scott. Edward Crawford, John Montgomery, Benjamin
" Ervine, William Wilson, Moses Hoge, John M'Cue, Samuel
" Houston, all pastors of particular churches, Mr. Carrick has mo-
" ved into the bounds of Abington presbytery since the last synod,
" they have one licenciate, Mr. John Lyle—they have six candi-
" dates—Messrs. Archibald Alexander, Benjamin Grigsly, Ma-
" thew Lyle, Thomas Poage, John Campbell, and Mathew Hou-
" ston,—they have six vacancies. No report was received from the
" presbytery of Transylvania.

" The Synod of the Carolinas report, that they consist of three
" presbyteries, viz. Orange, South-Carolina and Abington.

" The presbytery of Orange consists of

" 1st ministers who have charges - -	10
" ministers without any charge. -	1
" 2d Probationers who have accepted calls -	3
" probationers who have calls under consideration	2
" 3d Probationers without calls. - - -	4
" 4th Candidates. - - - -	5
" Vacancies able to support ministers -	7
" *Vacancies* not able, to support a minister -	17

" The presbytery of South-Carolina consists of ministers who
" have charges. - - - - 10
" Ministers who have not charges. - - 3

" 2d Licentiates.. - - - - 8
" 3d Candidates. - - - 9
" Vacancies able to support paſtors. - 9
" Vacancies not able to ſupport a paſtor. - 29
" No members from Abington attended nor did any report " reach the ſynod from them.

Atteſted by

SAMUEL E. M'CORKLE, Synod Clerk.

It was ordered, that the following rule eſtabliſhed by the ſynod of New-York and Philadelphia, in 1764, be publiſhed for the information of preſbyteries.

" The ſynod judges that any ſtudent in divinity, who profeſſes " a deſign to enter into the miniſtry, has a right, in our preſent " ſituation, to ſtudy for his improvement, under the direction of " any divine of reputation in the ſynod according to a former act: " but, that when he propoſes to enter upon trials with a view to " the miniſtry he ſhall come under the care of that Preſbytery to " which he moſt naturally belongs: and he ſhall be deemed moſt " naturally to belong to that Preſbytery in whoſe bounds he has " been brought up and lived for the moſt part and where he is beſt " known. But, if another Preſbytery deſire that any ſtudent or " ſtudents ſhould come into their bounds, or if any ſuch ſtudent " or ſtudents for greater conveniency or from any circumſtances " that make it neceſſary, deſire to enter upon trials, in a different " Preſbytery, upon his offering ſatisfactory reaſons, he may be diſ- " miſſed. But in either caſe, the preſbytery to which he removes, ſhall " not receive nor admit him to come under trials upon his having " a certificate as a regular church member only, but he ſhall bring a " teſtimonial from the preſbytery or ſeveral neighbouring miniſters " where he lived, recommending him as a candidate for the mini- " ſtry of exemplary piety and holineſs of converſation; nor ſhall " any thing leſs be eſteemed a ſufficient recommendation."

On motion, Reſolved, that a catalogue be kept, according to ſeniority in the miniſtry, of the names of all miniſters belonging to the Preſbyterian church in America; beginning May, 1789, the period when the firſt General Aſſembly met, and that after the deceaſe of any miniſter, his name ſhall be marked with an aſteriſm, and oppoſite to it, in a column for that purpoſe, the time of his death ſhall be ſet down; and in another, the name of the Preſbytery to which he laſt belonged. And the names of new members ſhall be added, from year to year, when the ſynodical and preſbyterial reports ſhall be made.

Agreeably to the above reſolution, ordered, that every preſbytery belonging to this body, ſhall ſend up to the next General Aſſembly, a liſt of all their members with the dates of their ordinations reſpectively.

The

The committee appointed to conſider the expediency of a new impreſſion of the Confeſſion of Faith, form of government, and diſcipline of this church, reported, that, upon inquiry, they found that the demand for this book was increaſing, that there were ſtill a conſiderable, tho' not a ſufficient, number of copies on hand, that therefore another impreſſion appeared expedient, in which if the ſcripture proofs were inſerted at length, it would become more acceptable, and might be of greater utility to the churches; and propoſed that a committee be appointed properly to ſelect and arrange the ſcripture texts to be adduced in ſupport of the articles in the Confeſſion of Faith, form of Government and diſcipline, and prepare the ſame, to be laid before the next General Aſſembly.

Reſolved, That Doctor Robert Smith, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Grier, be a committee to carry the above into execution.

The committee appointed to draught a minute, in conſequence of the reports of the ſeveral ſynods and preſbyteries reſpecting collections for miſſionaries, and for the ſupport of commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, and for defraying the incidental expences of this body, brought in the following, which was approved.

It appeared from the proceedings of the ſynod of New-York and New-Jerſey, and the ſynod of Philadelphia, as well as from the preſbyteries, compoſing thoſe bodies, that they had directed collections to be made agreeably to the order of the aſſembly, and that certain ſums of money ſo collected, had been handed to Mr. Snowden, the treaſurer, or were ready for that purpoſe; but that ſome part had not been as yet ſent forward. From the ſynods of Virginia and the Carolinas, it appeared that they ſupported their own miſſionaries, agreeably to the direction of laſt year's aſſembly, and that through miſtake or want of information, one preſbytery only, from thoſe ſynods had made collections, for the purpoſe of conſtituting a permanent fund, for the ſupport of commiſſioners. It likewiſe appeared to be the wiſh of the brethren from that quarter, that the preſbyteries might be allowed to ſupport their own commiſſioners. Whereupon, reſolved, That the monies collected by the ſynod of New-York and New-Jerſey, and by the ſynod of Philadelphia, for the purpoſe of ſupporting miſſionaries to the Frontiers, and not yet brought in, be, as ſoon as convenient, tranſmitted to the treaſurer. And that ſuch monies, as have been collected by preſbyteries, for defraying the expences of commiſſioners, be retained by them, and that each preſbytery, pay their own commiſſioners for the future, and for attending this preſent aſſembly. And in caſe any preſbytery has already paid into the hands of the treaſurer, money for ſaid purpoſe, the treaſurer is hereby directed to return the ſame.

The committee appointed to bring in a report upon the ſubject of Miſſionaries within the bounds of the ſynod of the Carolinas, informed the Aſſembly, from the minutes of that ſynod, that they have

have appointed a Commiſſion of their body to ſuperintend the ſaid buſineſs, that they have appointed four miſſionaries at a ſalary of two hundred dollars each per annum, and that they are proceeding with unanimity and zeal in the proſecution of that important object.

Whereupon Reſolved, that the ſaid report be approved.

The following propoſition was introduced through the committee of bills and overtures, that the General Aſſembly take meaſures to bring into diſtinct view, at its different ſeſſions, the ſituation of the Preſbyterian Church under its juriſdiction in the United States of America with reſpect to the ſtate of Religion in the different preſbyteries; the ſtate of religious denominations amongſt them, and the moſt probable expedients for reviving and promoting the eſſential intereſts of Chriſt's kingdom in the world.

Whereupon, reſolved, that it be recommended to each ſynod to enjoin it upon the reſpective preſbyteries within their bounds, to ſpecify the above particulars in the annual reports which they make of the ſtate of their reſpective churches, to be laid before the General Aſſembly at its ſtated meetings.

A queſtion from the ſynod of the Carolinas was introduced through the committee of Bills and overtures, which was as follows.——

"Are they who publickly profeſs a belief in the doctrine of the univerſal and actual Salvation of the whole human race, or of the fallen angels, or both, through the mediation of Chriſt, to be admitted to the ſealing ordinances of the Goſpel?"—— The Aſſembly determined that ſuch perſons ſhould not be admitted.

The committee appointed to examine the ſtate of the Treaſurer's accounts, reported, that they had executed that buſineſs, and that they had found in the hands of the treaſurer a balance of £148 5 3 in favour of the General Aſſembly.

A report was received from the Committee appointed to bring in an account of the proſecution of the plan by the ſynod of Virginia reſpecting miſſionaries within their bounds; which was approved.

Upon motion, reſolved, that it be recommended to the ſeveral preſbyteries of this church to conſider whether it would be proper to extend the time neceſſary for young men to apply to the ſtudy of divinity before they be taken on trials, to three years at leaſt; and to ſend up a report of their opinion with their commiſſioners to the next Aſſembly.

On motion, ordered that in future the arrangement of the annual preſbyterial reports be according to the ſeniority of the congregations of which each preſbytery is compoſed.

The Reverend James M'Donald and the Reverend David Auſtin, and Mr. Iſaac Grier, a probationer under the care of Carliſle

Carliſle preſbytery, were appointed miſſionaries from this Aſſembly to the Frontier Settlements, for the ſpace of four Months, to commence on the 15th June next.

Reſolved, that the ſum of $33\frac{1}{3}$ dollars per month be allowed to each miſſionary for his ſervice, and that the treaſurer advance to each the ſum of fifty dollars, to be accounted for by them as part of their ſalary.

A propoſition reſpecting the propriety and utility of a miſſion into the ſtate of Maryland and places adjacent was brought in by the committee of overtures and ſubmitted. The General Aſſembly approved of the propoſition, and appointed the Reverend John Craighead a miſſionary into thoſe parts, to ſpend two months on that buſineſs, and reſolved that he be allowed the ſame compenſation per month as the miſſionaries before appointed, and that the treaſurer advance 25 dollars to be accounted for as part of his ſalary.

On motion, reſolved, that the river Potowmac be the boundary line between the ſynods of Philadelphia and Virginia, except the congregation of Alexandria, which ſhall belong to the ſynod of Philadelphia.

Ordered that Mr. Monteith ſupply the pulpit at Elizabeth Town the 1ſt Lord's day in July :—Rev. Mr. Faitoute 2d Lord's day in July :—Doct. Witherſpoon the 3d Lord's day in July :—Doct. Smith Princeſton 4th Lord's day in July and Rev. John Smith, Philadelphia, 5th Lord's day in July : and that the preſbytery of New-York at their meeting on the laſt Tueſday of June, do take meaſures, to ſupply the pulpit at Elizabeth Town, the whole remaining Sabbaths, if Mr. Auſtin ſhall be abſent on the preſent propoſed miſſion, except the laſt Lord's day in September, when Doct. Green is appointed to ſupply :—Mr. Gilbert Snowden was appointed to ſupply Mr. M'Donald's pulpit for ſix Lord's days :—Dr. M'Knight, do. three Lord's days—Mr. Monteith, do. five Lord's days and Mr. William Smith, of New-Caſtle preſbytery do. for three Lord's days—Dr. Wetherſpoon, was appointed to ſupply Mr. Snowden's pulpit the third Lord's day in June—Dr. S. Smith, the fourth do.—Mr. Woodhull the firſt Lord's day in July—Mr. Clark, the ſecond do.—Mr. Grant, the third do. and Mr. Hanna, the fourth do.

Mr. Nath. Woodhull, was appointed to ſupply Dr. M'Knight's pulpit the fifth Lord's day in July—Mr. John B. Smith, the firſt Lord's day in Auguſt and Dr. Witherſpoon, the ſecond do. Mr. Irwin, of Philadelphia preſbytery was appointed to ſupply Mr. Monteith's pulpit the fifth Lord's day in Auguſt, Mr. Irwin's pulpit to be ſupplyed by Mr. Hunter,—Mr. William Boyd, the fourth do. Mr. Rice the firſt do. in September—Mr. James Boyd, the ſecond do.—Mr. Armſtrong the third do.

Dr.

Dr. Robert Smith, was appointed to ſupply Mr. William Smith's pulpit, the fourth Lord's day in September—Mr. Grier the fifth do. and Mr. M'Curry's the firſt of October.

Doctor Green, Mr. John B. Smith and Iſaac Snowden, Eſq. were appointed a committee to make extracts from the minutes for publication, and to have 1000 copies publiſhed, and ſent to the different preſbyteries as ſoon as poſſible.

Reſolved that the next General Aſſembly meet in the ſecond Preſbyterian Church in Philadelphia, on the third Thurſday in May, 1793, at 11 o'Clock A. M. adjourned and

Concluded by Prayer,

JOHN KING, Moderator.

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

A. D. 1793.

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M.DCC.XCIII.

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The committee under whose superintendance the following extracts are published think it not improper to remark that they do not lie in the journal of the General Assembly exactly in the same order in which they appear in the following pages. Minutes relative to the same object have been collected from various parts of the records that they might be exhibited in connexion, and parts of minutes, irrelative to matters of general concern, have been omitted. In no instance however has the full sense or intention of any minute been in the least violated, or other words than those of the record introduced.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

Minutes of the General Assembly

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, for the Year 1793.

May 16th, 1793.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to appointment, in the second Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened, by the Rev. Dr. King, the last year's moderator, with a sermon from ii. Cor. v. chap. 18th.

The Revd. Dr. Jonathan Edwards and the Revd. Mr. Matthias Burnet from the General Association of the state of Connecticut, appeared in the Assembly, and produced an extract from the records of that association, whereby it appeared that the convention, between said association and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, had been ratified on their part; and that these gentlemen with the Revd. Dr. Timothy Dwight were appointed, agreeably to an article of said convention, to sit in this assembly: whereupon, Dr. Edwards and Mr. Burnet were admittted as members, and took their seats accordingly.

May, 17th, the Revd. Dr. Dwight one of the delegates from the General Association of Connecticut, appeared in the assembly and took his seat.

Dr.

Dr. Rogers, Dr. Smith and Dr. Green were appointed a committee of correſpondence, agreeably to a plan of union agreed upon between this aſſembly and the General Aſſociation of the ſtate of Connecticut.

The committee appointed by the General Aſſembly of laſt year, for correſpondence with the General Aſſociation of the ſtate of Connecticut, preſented a communication from ſaid aſſociation, which was ordered to be entered on the records of the houſe. *(An extract from the above communication is as follows, viz.)* "Voted—That the former committee of correſpondence be continued for the preſent year. That the Revd. Meſſrs. Nathaniel Taylor, Nathan Williams, Thomas W. Bray, Benjamin Trumbull, Eliphalet Williams, D. D. William Robinſon, John Devotion, Levi Hart, Timothy Stone, Iſaac Lewis and David Ely, be a ſtanding committe, to certify the good qualifications of ſuch preachers, as travel from the limits of the churches in this aſſociation, into the limits of the Preſbyterian Churches".

According to order, the vote was taken for members to repreſent this aſſembly in the General Aſſociation of the ſtate of Connecticut, when it appeared—That the Revd. Dr. John Rodgers of the Preſbytery of New-York, the Revd. John Woodhull of the Preſbytery of New-Brunſwick and the Rev. Aaron Woolworth of the Preſbytery of Long-Iſland, were duly elected to that office: whereupon, ordered, that the ſtated clerk furniſh the aforeſaid gentlemen, with an atteſted copy of the minute of this proceeding, which ſhall be their ſufficient warrant, for appearing as the repreſentatives of this aſſembly in the General Aſſociation of Connecticut.

Ordered—That Dr. Samuel S. Smith, ſupply the pulpit of Mr. Woodhull on the fourth Sabbath of June, when he will be attending the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, agreeably to the order of this Aſſembly.

The

The Revd. John M'Donald who was appointed a miſſionary by the laſt General Aſſembly, tranſmitted a letter to this aſſembly, encloſing a narrative of the fulfillment of his miſſion; which letter with the encloſures were read.

A ſimilar report from Mr. Iſaac Grier, a probationer under the care of the Preſbytery of Carliſle, who was appointed to a like miſſion, by the laſt aſſembly, was alſo brought in and read.

Ordered, that Dr. Alliſon, with Meſſrs. Lacy, Hoge, Ker and Warford, be a committee to examine the reports and narratives of the miſſionaries of the General Aſſembly of laſt year, which have been ſubmitted to this houſe, and ſuch other communications of a ſimilar nature as ſhall be made, and report thereon, on Monday morning next.

It appeared that the Revd. David Auſtin, who was appointed a miſſionary, by the aſſembly of laſt year, had not fulfilled the miſſion aſſigned him. His excuſe for this failure was read and accepted.

The Revd. John Craighead, a miſſionary appointed by the laſt General Aſſembly, gave in a narrative of his labours, in conſequence of that appointment.

Agreeably to appointment, the committee from the ſynod of Virginia, read a narrative of the proceedings of that ſynod in the appointment of miſſionaries, to preach on the frontiers and among the vacant congregations within their bounds; and of the manner in which thoſe miſſions have been carried into effect.

The committee appointed to examine the narratives of the miſſionaries under the direction of the General Aſſembly laſt year, made their report, which was conſidered; and the aſſembly thereupon determined—That the miſſionaries deſerve approbation

approbation for the diligence with which their miſſions have been executed: that they are alſo happy to obſerve, that the meaſures purſued have in ſeveral inſtances been attended with manifeſt ſucceſs: and that the miſſions under the direction of the ſynod of Virginia, appear to have been conducted with great judgment.

The aſſembly further directed, for the preſent year, that three miſſionaries be appointed to itinerate among the frontier ſettlements, from the ſtate of New-York, to the Eaſt branch of the Suſquehanna incluſive, for four months, to commence from the firſt day of June next, of whom, one at leaſt to be an ordained miniſter: that the ſum of $33\frac{1}{3}$ dollars per month, be allowed to each miſſionary for his ſervices, including what he may receive from the people among whom he ſhall labour; and that 50 dollars, in part thereof, be advanced to each miſſionary, before he ſets out: that the miſſionaries be directed, to report to the next General Aſſembly, a faithful and particular narrative of the fulfillment of their miſſion, in which they will confine themſelves to the objects ſpecified in the order of 1790, obſerving great caution in what they offer reſpecting other denominations.

On enquiry, it appeared that the ſynod of New-York and New-Jerſey, had recommended to the aſſembly, the Revd. Benjamin Judd and the Revd. Ira Condict, as ſuitable perſons to be employed as miſſionaries to the frontiers. It alſo appeared, that, Mr. William Spear, a probationer under the care of the Preſbytery of Carliſle, was willing to ſpend two months, in the character of a miſſionary: whereupon the aſſembly did and do hereby appoint the above mentioned gentlemen to be their miſſionaries for the preſent year, and order that they conform themſelves to the inſtructions, contained in the preceding minute, and receive the compenſation there ſpecified.

The committee appointed to make an arrangement for supplying the pulpit of Mr. Condict, who has been appointed a miſſionary to the frontiers, made report, and thereupon the aſſembly ordered—That Mr. Dunham ſupply at Newton, the ſecond Sabbath of June; Mr. William Boyd at Hardwick, the third Sabbath of June; Mr. Peter Wilſon at Shappenack the fourth Sabbath of June; Mr. Rue at Newton, the fifth Sabbath of June, and that his pulpit be ſupplied the ſame day by Mr. James Boyd:—that Mr. Rue ſupply at Hardwick, the firſt Sabbath of July; Mr. Grant at Newton, the ſecond Sabbath of July; Mr. Snowden at Hardwick, the third Sabbath of July; Mr. Hanna at Shappenack, the fourth Sabbath of July:—that Mr. Carle ſupply at Newton, the firſt Sabbath of Auguſt, and at Hardwick the ſecond Sabbath of the ſame month, and that his pulpit on the laſt of theſe days be ſupplied by Mr. White: that on the third Sabbath of Auguſt Mr. Fordam ſupply at Newton, and on the fourth Sabbath of the ſame month, that Mr. Joline ſupply at Hardwick:—that Mr. Peppard ſupply at Shappenack, on the firſt Sabbath of September, Mr. Hilliar at Newton, the ſecond Sabbath of September, Mr. Nathan Ker at Hardwick, the third Sabbath of September, Mr. Freeman at Newton, the fourth Sabbath of September and the laſt Sabbath of the ſame month; and that Mr. King ſupply Mr. Freeman's pulpit on the laſt mentioned Sabbath.

On motion, agreed, that Mr. Judd be appointed to itinerate as a miſſionary for three months, to commence about the firſt of December next, in the Peniſula, between Delaware Bay and the Cheſapeak, and that he be allowed the ſame compenſation for his ſervices, as for the northern miſſion, and make the like report to the next General Aſſembly—It was farther agreed, that the Preſbytery of Lewis, ſhall recommend it to their churches, to make a particular collection, toward the ſupport of this miſſion, in addition to thoſe required by the ſtanding order, of the General Aſſembly.

An

An enquiry was inſtituted reſpecting the progreſs, which has been made, by the different Preſbyteries, under the ſuperintendance of the General Aſſembly, in regard to the collection of materials for a hiſtory of the Preſbyterian Church :— when it appeared, that none of the Preſbyteries were prepared to make a final report on that ſubject ; but that moſt of them had made very conſiderable progreſs in it, and were diligently employed in endeavouring to bring it to a ſatisfactory iſſue :— whereupon, ordered, that Preſbyteries continue their attention to this important object, and if poſſible make a final report to the aſſembly of next year—Ordered, moreover, that Dr. Rodgers and Mr. Woodhull, be a committee to draught a letter to the Preſbyteries of Orange, South-Carolina, Abington and Tranſylvania, which may inform them of the order of the aſſembly on this point and urge their attention to it.

The General Aſſembly of laſt year having ordered the different preſbyteries to report to this Aſſembly liſts of their members according to ſeniority in the miniſtry, the Aſſembly proceeded to inquire for the preſbyterial reports on this ſubject when it appeared that the preſbyteries had generally taken order thereon; but for want of time and by reaſon of other circumſtances the liſts were not completed: whereupon, ordered that the preſbyteries continue their deligent attention to this object and make returns to the next General Aſſembly. In conſequence of a repreſentation from the Synod of New-York, reſolve , that the order of laſt year which directs that in the preſbyterial reports the catalogue of the congregations ſhould be made according to ſeniority be repealed.

On motion, reſolved, that the following clauſe in a reſolution paſſed by the General Aſſembly of 1792 reſpecting the reports of preſbyteries be repealed viz. " The ſtate of religious denominations among them."

A letter

A letter was received and read from Mr. Mitchel one of the members of a committee appointed by the Assembly of 1792 to revise and prepare for publication an edition of the Confession of faith Catechisms and form of government and discipline of this church, informing this Assembly that considerable progress had been made in the business but that it was still incomplete: whereupon the business was recommitted and the moderator added to the committee in the place of the Rev. Dr. Robert Smith deceased and they were directed to report to the Assembly in 1794.

The Assembly called for the reports of the presbyteries relative to a point on which their opinion was required by the last Assembly viz. "Whether it would be proper to extend the time necessary for young men to apply to the study of divinity before they be taken on trials to three years at least:" When it appeared that a considerable majority of the presbyteries had given it as their opinion that the time of study ought not to be extended.

A petition from the congregations of Tuscarora and Falling-Waters praying to be reunited to the presbytery of Carlisle was laid before the Assembly and read. On the question shall the prayer of said petition be granted? it was determined in the affirmative and the said churches were accordingly placed under the care and inspection of the presbytery of Carlisle.

On motion, ordered, that the records of the General Synod of the year 1787 on the subject of slavery be republished among the extracts to be printed of the proceedings of this General Assembly.

(The records of the Synod referred to in the above order are as follow)

" The following was brought in by the committee of overtures viz. The Creator of the world having made of one fleſh all the children of men, it becomes them as members of the ſame family to conſult and promote each others happineſs. It is more eſpecially the duty of thoſe who maintain the rights of humanity and who acknowledge and teach the obligations of chriſtianity to uſe ſuch means as are in their power to extend the bleſſings of equal freedom to every part of the human race. From a full conviction of theſe truths, and ſenſible that the rights of human nature are too well underſtood to admit of debate—overturned, that the Synod of New-York and Philadelphia recommend in the warmeſt terms to every member of their body, and to all the churches and families under their care, to do every thing in their power, conſiſtent with the rights of civil ſociety, to promote the abolition of ſlavery and the inſtruction of negroes whether bond or free.

The Synod taking into conſideration the overture concerning ſlavery tranſmitted by the committee of overtures came to the following judgement.—The Synod of New-York and Philadelphia do highly approve of the general principles in favour of univerſal liberty that prevail in America and the intereſt which many of the ſtates have taken in promoting the abolition of ſlavery. Yet in as much as men introduced from a ſervile ſtate to a participation of all the privileges of civil ſociety without a proper education and without previous habits of induſtry may be, in many reſpects, dangerous to the community; therefore they earneſtly recommend it to all the members belonging to their communion to give thoſe perſons who are at preſent held in ſervitude ſuch good education as to prepare them for the better enjoyment of freedom: and they moreover recommend that maſters, wherever they find ſervants diſpoſed to make a juſt improvement of the privilege, would give

give them a peculium, or grant them sufficient time and sufficient means of procuring their own liberty at a moderate rate; that thereby they may be brought into society with those habits of industry that may render them useful citizens: and, finally, they recommend it to all their people to use the most prudent measures, consistent with the interests and the state of civil society in the countries where they live, to procure eventually the final abolition of slavery in America."

On motion, agreed, that Dr. Green, Mr. John B. Smith and Isaac Snowden, Esq. be a committee to select, and superintend the publication of such parts of the minutes and proceedings of this Assembly as shall appear to be of general concern. It was further agreed that the committee publish an account of the missions of last year and the prospects they afford of success, and close the same with an earnest address to the churches to be liberal and diligent in their contributions for promoting this important object.

Ordered, that the next General Assembly of this church be held in the second presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia on the third Thursday of May 1794.

Agreeably

Agreeably to the order of the General Assembly, the subscribers, members of the committee appointed for the purpose, take this opportunity to state; that the measures for diffusing the knowledge and influence of the gospel, adopted by the assembly, and, under their allowance, by the synod of Virginia, have been crowned with much success. The missionaries employed by them, have been instrumental in exciting the attention of the people amongst whom they laboured to the important messages of the gospel—in laying the foundation of organized churches where there is a prospect of a large increase,—in extending the blessings of christian instruction and knowledge to considerable numbers of people, who would otherwise have been destitute of the means of grace—in strengthening and increasing the Presbyterian Church, as well as preserving its members from the seduction of those who might wish to pervert them—and, generally, in advancing Christ's kingdom in the world.

The utility of the objects which the assembly have in contemplation, cannot be doubted; the prospects of success as to their attainment, are pleasing; and the continuance of these pious and well directed measures, an event, much to be desired. Surely, therefore, all the benevolent and pious in our communion, will chearfully contribute their aid to promote the plans which have been so judiciously formed, and so faithfully executed. They who love their Saviour will rejoice to assist in bringing others to the knowledge of him—They who feel the value of the gospel and plentifully enjoy its institutions, will be excited by the most tender compassion for their brethren who are destitute of these blessings. They who have been rescued from the darkness and wretchedness of a state of sin, will pity others who are perishing in that state, insensible of their danger, and that, perhaps, for the want of instruction. They who have received mercy will desire to testify their gratitude to heaven, by the most vigorous efforts to promote the salvation of others. They who, as patriotic citizens, regard the prosperity of their country, will be anxi-

ous

ous to diffuſe the principles of the goſpel, ſo favourable to that proſperity, through the numerous, recent, and increaſing ſettlements upon our frontiers. And, finally, they who are attached to our church in which they have been educated, ſenſible of the advantages, reſulting from its purity and ſimplicity in doctrine, worſhip, and diſcipline, its liberal and republican conſtitution, and its early attention to the inſtruction and manners of its members, will ſurely manifeſt a laudable ardor to extend the bleſſings of a connection with her to as many as poſſible. It is therefore expected, that the moſt generous contributions will be made, by all the churches under the care of the aſſembly, to encourage the Miſſion. It is expected that the miniſters will heartily concur in theſe meaſures, and be faithful and earneſt in exhorting the people of their reſpective charges to aſſiſt in carrying them into the moſt extenſive effect. And it is further expected that young candidates for the miniſtry will chearfully and zealouſly devote themſelves to the ſervice—that they will gladly avail themſelves of the opportunity which preſents itſelf to ſerve as Evangeliſts in the cauſe of Chriſt and preach his goſpel through diſtant ſettlements—and that they will not be ſparing of their labour and moſt ſtrenuous exertions in a ſervice ſo honourable and important.

Signed by order of the General Aſſembly,

JOHN B. SMITH.

ASHBEL GREEN.

N. B. The Miniſters are deſired to read the extracts and the preceding addreſs in their reſpective Churches.

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

A. D. 1794.

PHILADELPHIA:

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1803.

In the following extracts, all the minutes which relate to a particular subject, have been collected from various parts of the records, and so arranged as to present a connected view of the measures taken by the Assembly in regard to such subject.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

Minutes of the General Assembly

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, for the Year 1794.

May 15th, 1794, 11 o'Clock A. M.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, agreeably to appointment, in the Second Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. James Latta, the moderator of last year, from 1 Thes. v. 12, 13. "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves."

The following presbyteries were represented by commissioners, viz. Long-Island, Dutches, New-York, Albany, New-Brunswick,—of the synod of New-York and New-Jersey.—Philadelphia, New-Castle, Lewis, Baltimore and Carlisle, of the synod of Philadelphia.—Red-Stone, Ohio and Lexington, of the synod of Virginia: And Orange presbytery of the synod of the Carolinas.

From the presbyteries of Hanover, Abingdon, Transylvania and South-Carolina, no commissioners attended the Assembly.

The

The General Assembly proceeded to the choice of a moderator, and the Rev. Dr. Alexander M'Whorther was elected to that office.

On taking the votes for clerks of the Assembly it appeared that the Rev. Messrs. Andrew Hunter and James M'Donald were duly chosen, and they were accordingly declared to be the clerks of this Assembly.

The Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Taylor and the Rev. Mr. Nathan Perkins appeared in the Assembly, and produced a certificate from the General Association of the State of Connecticut, whereby it appeared that these gentlemen, with the Rev. Dr. Isaac Lewis, were appointed to represent said Association in this Assembly.—Whereupon Mr. Taylor and Mr. Perkins were admitted to their seats.

A letter from a committee of a convention of the congregational ministers, in the State of Massachusetts, directed to the moderator, was received and read—On motion, ordered, that it be entered on the minutes. It is as follows, viz.

"*To the moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.*"

Rev. Sir,

WE are appointed a committee by the convention of congregational ministers, in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, to inform you that, at their last meeting, they passed the following vote, viz. "That it be proposed to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in America and the General Association in Connecticut, not to receive or countenance any candidate from us who does not bring credentials from a regular body among us known to them; assuring them that we will observe the same rule with respect to candidates from them, and informing them that we shall be glad to hear from them

them upon all ſubjects which relate to the intereſts of our common chriſtianity, and will communicate every information upon ſuch ſubjects as may tend to promote the intereſts of religion."

We are alſo directed to inform you, that meaſures are taking to collect information with reſpect to the preſent ſtate of our churches, which we ſhall take the earlieſt opportunity to tranſmit to the General Aſſembly.

You will pleaſe to communicate the above to the General Aſſembly, and we ſhall be happy to receive an anſwer by the earlieſt opportunity upon this intereſting ſubject.

We are Revd. Sir,

In the name and behalf of the congregational miniſters of Maſſachuſetts.

Your brethren in the faith and fellowſhip of the goſpel.

Joſeph Willard, Joſeph Eckley,
Peter Thatcher, Jedidiah Morſe.
David Tappan.

Boſton, May 8th, 1794."

Dr. Rodgers, Dr. Alliſon, and Mr. Taylor, were appointed a committee to prepare a draught of an anſwer to the letter from the committee of the convention of the Maſſachuſetts miniſters.

The committee appointed to draught an anſwer to the letter from the committee of the convention of the Maſſachuſetts miniſters reported a draught, which was adopted and is in the following words, viz.

Philadelphia,

Philadelphia, May 20th, 1794.

Rev. Gentlemen,

Your communication of the 8th inſtant, in the name and behalf of the convention of Congregational miniſters in the Commonwealth of Maſſachuſetts, has been received; and we embrace the earlieſt opportunity to expreſs our hearty approbation of your propoſal to preſerve the churches committed to our care, reſpectively, from being viſited and conſequently injured, by deceivers, under the appearance of regular miniſters. To prevent the evil as much as poſſible, we would farther propoſe, that no miniſter or preacher from either, be received and encouraged by the other, unleſs he produce, beſide recent teſtimonials from regularly conſtituted authorities, private letters, or ſome corroborating teſtimony in his favour, not ſo capable of being forged. The forms of the firſt being known, an artful man may, without much difficulty, fabricate a certificate in his own behalf, and have it apparently authenticated in due order, with the aſſiſtance of an accomplice or two, while he will hardly venture to paſs his own contrivance for the laſt:—At leaſt he will very ſeldom venture it with ſucceſs. This method has been practiſed by us for a conſiderable time in receiving clerical characters from Europe; it has been found the moſt effectual to prevent impoſition, and now appears equally neceſſary to be obſerved in the admiſſion of thoſe who may come from diſtant parts of our own nation. And though no correſpondence by letters may have exiſted between any perſons reſiding in the diſtricts from which, and to which, a regular miniſter or preacher propoſes travelling, ſufficient intercourſe prevails between intermediate places, to admit of his being regularly handed, and ſufficiently recommended, till he reach the object of his deſtination. In guarding againſt the miſchief under conſideration, the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, and this General Aſſembly, by joint agreement, appoint and mutually communicate the names of a certain number of members in each body, moſt conveniently ſituated for the purpoſe, to authenticate the teſtimonials of thoſe who paſs into

into each others bounds, one of whoſe names, at leaſt, muſt appear in every certificate. This we juſt mention and leave it with you to judge whether a ſimilar proceeding would be adviſeable or neceſſary between you and us.

Notwithſtanding the pains uſed to train up young men for the work of the miniſtry, ſo rapid is population among us, that our vacancies encreaſe much faſter than our miniſters, and it may be truly ſaid that the harveſt is great and the labourers in compariſon few.

Our attention has been, for ſome time, directed towards collecting materials for a hiſtory of the preſbyterian church through the United States, in the proſecution of which ſome things may perhaps occur worthy of being communicated;— and we ſhall on all occaſions ſhow ourſelves diſpoſed to perform whatever may ſeem expedient to promote a more intimate connexion between the congregational churches of Maſſachuſets and our's, whoſe intereſts are ſo cloſely united,— to teſtify our reſpect for their characters and to evidence our ſincere wiſhes for their proſperity.

We are, gentlemen, with unfeigned regard and eſteem, Your affectionate brethren in our common Lord.

Signed by order,

Alexander M'Whorter, Moderator.

Rev. Dr. Joſeph Willard,
Rev. Dr. Joſeph Eckly,
Rev. Jedidiah Morſe,
Rev. Dr. Peter Thatcher,
Rev. David Tappan,

An enquiry was inſtituted reſpecting the progreſs which has been made by the different preſbyteries under the ſuperintendence of the General Aſſembly in regard to materials for a hiſtory of the preſbyterian church, when it appeared, that a very particular attention had been paid to that buſineſs by the preſbyteries in general, but that the preſbyteries of Philadelphia and New-York, only, have completed the expected narratives.

The

The Assembly having expressed disappointment in not having obtained from all the presbyteries historical sketches of their several congregations, did, and do hereby renew their order on this subject frequently repeated, and did strictly injoin on every presbytery still deficient, to collect and complete the materials required, and to transmit the same to the stated clerk at, or before, the next General Assembly. Ordered, that the materials for a history of the presbyterian church which have been, or shall be collected, be delivered to the stated clerk, in order to be deposited among the records of the Assembly.

Dr. Alexander M'Whorter and Mr. Jedidiah Chapman, of the presbytery of New-York, and Mr. Joseph Clark of the presbytery of New-Brunswick, were appointed delegates from this General Assembly, to meet with the next General Association of Connecticut; and were ordered to give an account of their diligence in that business to the next General Assembly.

On motion, ordered, that the delegates appointed from the General Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut propose to the Association, as an amendment to the articles of intercourse agreed upon between the aforesaid bodies, that the delegates from these bodies, respectively, shall have a right, not only to sit and deliberate, but also to vote, in all questions which shall be determined by either of them:—And to communicate the result of their proposal to the next General Assembly.

The papers and narratives of the missionaries employed last year by the General Assembly, and by the synods of Virginia and the Carolinas, were, agreeably to order, laid before the Assembly and read—whereupon, ordered, that Dr. Allison and Mr. Smith be a committee, to prepare a minute expressive of the approbation of the Assembly of the attention and care with which their missions have been executed.

Dr.

Dr. Alliſon, from the committee appointed to prepare a minute which ſhould expreſs the approbation of the Aſſembly of the manner in which their miſſionaries have diſcharged their duty during the laſt year, reported, "that the Aſſembly heard with approbation and pleaſure the narratives of the miſſionaries employed by them, and by the ſynods of Virginia and the Carolinas concerning the labours of thoſe under their direction. Some, it appeared highly probable, were effectually impreſſed with a true ſenſe of religion through their means: many were induced to join in forming religious ſocieties, and a general deſire was expreſſed to enjoy the preaching of the goſpel where negligence and irreligion had conſiderably prevailed: Nor could there remain any doubt of important advantages, in future, from a proſecution of the plan heretofore purſued. The riſing generation may, in conſequence hereof, be more carefully educated, and better inſtructed in the principles of chriſtianity, civil order may be promoted, the political virtues enforced, the intereſts of Chriſt's kingdom advanced, and immortal beings prepared for eternal happineſs."—On theſe accounts a renewed application to the churches for their generous contributions to ſupport ſimilar miſſions in future was held by the Aſſembly to be indiſpenſable, and they were aſſured that whenever the deſign contemplated ſhould be accompliſhed, or not anſwered in a ſufficient degree, ſuch application to them would ceaſe.

The miſſionaries for the preſent year (the committee thought) ſhould receive direction to return the ſame way they went, that the places they viſited in going out, might be appriſed of the times of their preaching as they came in;—to accompliſh which more effectually, they were inſtructed to adviſe with their brethren who have already been employed in the ſame ſervice.

On motion, it was agreed, that the expence of a miſſion to the frontiers of the ſtate of New-York, performed by Mr. Judd, by appointment of the ſynod of New-York and New-Jerſey, at their meeting in October laſt (in conſequence of ſeveral petitions of the inhabitants of thoſe remote ſettle-

ments requeſting ſuch an appointment) ſhall be defrayed by the Aſſembly, at the ſame rate which they allowed to their other miſſionaries.

On the ſubject of miſſions it was agreed, that Mr. Cunningham Semple be appointed to itinerate on the weſtern ſhore of Maryland, from this time to the firſt of Auguſt: and that Mr. Benjamin Judd and Mr. Semple, be appointed to itinerate from the firſt of Auguſt, for the ſpace of two months and an half, on the waters of the Suſquehanna.

On motion, reſolved, that the preſbytery of New-Caſtle proceed with all convenient ſpeed to ordain Mr. Robert Smith, one of their licentiates, to the work of the goſpel miniſtry, and alſo, that the preſbytery of Baltimore proceed to ordain, either Mr. Cunningham Semple or Mr. Samuel Martin, licentiates under their care, to the ſame office, provided that they, or either of them, ſhall accept of the appointment of miſſions from this aſſembly, and the reſpective preſbyteries be ſatisfied with their trials for ordination.

Mr. Robert Smith was appointed a miſſionary to the weſtern and northern frontiers of the ſtate of New-York, for the ſpace of ſix months, to commence on the firſt of October; provided he ſhall be ordained by the preſbytery of New-Caſtle for that purpoſe.—Ordered, that the licentiate, whoever he ſhall be, whom the preſbytery of Baltimore ſhall ordain, be appointed a miſſionary among the inhabitants on the weſtern ſhore of Maryland, before the meeting of the next General Aſſembly.

On motion, reſolved, that the preſbytery of Albany endeavour to appoint a miſſionary, for three or four months, to the northern and weſtern frontiers of the ſtate of New-York, and that the Aſſembly defray the expence attending the ſaid miſſion.

On motion, reſolved, that the miſſionaries ordered to itinerate on the frontiers be allowed for their ſervices and expences, at the rate of forty dollars per month; that the treaſurer pay, in advance, to each of them, the ſum of ſixty dollars, and that they account to the Aſſembly for all the monies

monies which they ſhall receive from the different congregations, on their tour.

On motion, reſolved, that the ſynods of Virginia and the Carolinas be ordered to ſubjoin to their annual ſynodical reports, an account of their collections and diſburſments of money for the miſſionaries ſent to the frontiers, and alſo a liſt of the miſſionaries which they ſhall have employed.

Mr. Hall, Mr. Clark and Mr M'Donald, were appointed a committee to prepare an addreſs to be circulated among the ſettlements viſited by the miſſionaries appointed by the General Aſſembly and the ſynods under their care.

The committee appointed to draught a circular addreſs to the inhabitants viſited by the miſſionaries, reported the ſame, which was approved, and is in the following words, viz.

Dear friends and brethren,

The General Aſſembly of the preſbyterian church in the United States of America, have for ſome years viewed with concern, the ſtate of our frontier and other ſettlements in the union, who are deſtitute of the regular adminiſtration of the worſhip and ordinances of God: and deſirous to do all in our power to extend the bleſſings of the goſpel amonſt you, we have given orders to our ſeveral preſbyteries to raiſe collections annually from their reſpective congregations, for the ſupport of miſſionaries to be ſent amonſt you. Providence hath thus far bleſſed our endeavours, and ſeveral of our brethren have, from time to time, cheerfully left their friends and connections for ſome months, in order to viſit your ſettlements and publiſh to you the glad tidings of ſalvation.

The accounts which, on their return, they have given us of their reception and ſucceſs amongſt you, have frequently and greatly comforted us, and given us the pleaſing hope that their labours and our wiſhes have not been in vain in the Lord.

As our aim has not been to proſelyte from other communities to our denomination, we have charged our miſſionaries

ries to avoid all doubtful diſputations, to abſtain from unfriendly cenſures or reflections on other religious perſuaſions, and adhering ſtrictly to the great doctrines of our holy religion which influence the heart and life in the ways of godlineſs to follow after the things that make for peace and general edification.

From the peculiar circumſtances of your ſituation we think it our duty to exhort you to attend particularly to the catechetical inſtruction of your children.

We fear there is a ſad, and too general neglect of this duty.—Dear brethren, we wiſh you to remember that the neglect of this duty naturally leads to the moſt ſerious and awful conſequences.—Your children will grow up in ſad ignorance of their ſpiritual and everlaſting concerns; this ignorance will prove the fruitful parent of immorality and licentiouſneſs, inſtead of knowing ſcripture truth from their childhood, and being eſtabliſhed therein, they will lie expoſed to be toſſed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the ſlight of men and cunning craftineſs whereby they lie in wait to deceive: the proſpect of the riſing churches, and growing intereſts of religion amongſt you will probably be blaſted:—and we cannot help but call to your view, the awful account you muſt give to God, if, by your neglect of ſo important a duty, you ſhould prove the occaſion of ſo much miſchief to your dear offspring, and endanger the intereſts of our Redeemer's kingdom.

The profanation of the Lord's day, and the neglect of thoſe religious exerciſes which humanize and ſanctify the heart we are apprehenſive may be too prevalent among you. We know that, from your peculiarly deſtitute and unſettled circumſtances, you cannot ſpend your ſabbaths as many among you, no doubt, wiſh:—We therefore earneſtly recommend to you, while in your preſent circumſtances, to form ſmall ſocieties, in which you may meet every Lord's day for the purpoſe of ſocial prayer and praiſe, reading the ſcriptures, and ſermons of ſome of our moſt approved and pious divines, where you have not elders or deacons regularly ordained,

who

who may lead your worſhip, we think you ought to chooſe from among yourſelves thoſe whoſe knowledge, talents and religious deportment are moſt conſpicuous. By this method your ſocial attachments will be ſtrengthened; your religious affections cheriſhed; your habits of worſhip improved, and you will be gradually ripening for the full eſtabliſhment of the ordinances of the goſpel.

We hear with pain that you are peculiar expoſed to viſits from men unauthoriſed by the churches, unſound in the faith, and of unholy and immoral lives, who call themſelves preachers. We exhort you to be very careful, neither to admit nor encourage preachers with whoſe principles, connexions and characters you are unacquainted.

As all the churches of our denomination, and alſo the churches of New-England, viewing with concern the evils which may follow the admiſſion of irregular and unauthorized preachers, have reſolved that all their miſſionaries who viſit you ſhall be furniſhed with proper evidences of their miſſion, you have reaſon to ſuſpect thoſe who viſit you without authentic certificates from ſome known religious denomination.—The weakeſt, and moſt worthleſs of men are able to create and foment diviſions: The judicious and pious will lead to union—Such as theſe your preſent circumſtances peculiarly require.

We cannot entertain a doubt, that when you conſider the extent of the miſſion and the circumſtances attending its fulfilment, you will cheerfully contribute your aſſiſtance (as ſome places amongſt you have already done) toward the proſecuting of this object, as ſoon as your ſituation ſhall render ſuch a meaſure eligible.

We ſincerely deſire that you may abound in the fruits of holineſs under that meaſure of cultivation which the great Lord of the harveſt may afford you; that you would uſe your earneſt endeavour to procure, as ſoon as may be, a more complete and extenſive eſtabliſhment of goſpel means amongſt you,

you, and that you would unite your earneſt prayers with us that the knowledge of the Lord may cover the earth, as the waters do the ſea.

We are dear friends and brethren, in the bonds of our common chriſtianity, yours affectionately,

Signed by order,

Alexander M'Whorter, Moderator.

The ſynod of New-York and New-Jerſey and the ſynod of Virginia delivered in their annual reports, which were accepted.

The ſynod of the Carolinas made no report; and as it appeared from the records of the General Aſſembly, that the preſbyteries of Abingdon and South-Carolina, within the bounds of that ſynod and under its juriſdiction had not ſent commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly for ſeveral years paſt, and that the former of thoſe Preſbteries had not made any report of their ſtate for a conſiderable time, it was reſolved, that the ſaid ſynod be required to take proper meaſures to ſend up their reports annually to the General Aſſembly, and to inform the ſaid preſbyteries that a punctual repreſentation from them to the ſuperior judicatories of the church, is expected and required by the Aſſembly.

A repreſentation and petition of the congregation of Pittſburgh, requeſting to be ſeparated from the Presbytery of Redſtone, and to be annexed to the presbytery of Carliſle, was taken under conſideration, and a motion having been made, "that the prayer of the petition be granted," after a full diſcuſſion of the ſubject it was decided in the negative. On motion, it was agreed that a letter be written to the congregation of Pittsburgh relative to the deciſion on their petition—and Mr. Smith and Mr. Hall were appointed a committee to prepare a draught of ſaid letter.

The

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of a letter to the congregation of Pittſburgh reported one, which was agreed to and ordered to be tranſcribed, ſigned by the moderator, and tranſmitted to them as ſoon as convenient.

The committee appointed to prepare the ſcripture-proofs in ſupport of the doctrines of the confeſſion of faith, catechiſms, &c. of the preſbyterian church, ſubmitted their report, which was in part read, examined and approved as a ſpecimen of the work. Whereupon, Dr. Green, and Meſſrs. John B. Smith, James Boyd, William M. Tennent, Nathaniel Irwin and Andrew Hunter, were appointed a committee, to compare the proofs prepared and now reported by ſaid committee to the General Aſſembly, with the proofs annexed to the Weſtminſter confeſſion of faith, catechiſm and directory, to reviſe the whole, prepare it for the preſs, to agree with a printer for its publication, and to ſuperintend the printing and vending of the ſame. And the ſaid committee were further inſtructed to ſecure the copy-right of ſaid book, according to a law of the United States in ſuch caſe, provided.

The following queſtion, brought before the Aſſembly, through the committe of overtures was read, viz. "whether, beſides requiring of parents, dedicating their children "to God in baptiſm, an expreſs acknowledgment of the duties "of parents and recommending to them, their obſervance "thereof, it ſhould be conſidered as eſſential to require alſo "that they come under an explicit vow or ſolemn engagement "to perform thoſe duties?" Whereupon the aſſembly reſolved, that an anſwer to the queſtion is contained, in the directory for public worſhip of this church, under the head of adminiſtration of baptiſm, which requires an expreſs engagement on the part of the parents.

Dr.

Dr. Alliſon, Mr. Smith, and Dr. Scott were appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the treaſurer of the General Aſſembly, and having delivered in their report, it was approved, and is as follows;

"We the committee appointed by the General Aſſembly, having examined the accounts of Iſaac Snowden, treaſurer, ſince the laſt ſettlement made May 20th, 1793, and ſeen his vouchers, do find them juſt and true, and that there is a balance of three hundred and twenty-two pounds and threepence due to the General Aſſembly, as above ſtated (*i. e.* in the account current which accompanied the report) in the hands of the ſaid treaſurer.

Moſes Scott,
Patrick Alliſon,
John B. Smith.

Philadelphia, May 21ſt 1794.

A clauſe of the will of the late Mr. Azariah Horton, was laid before the Aſſembly, by Mr. Foſter Horton, one of his executors, requeſting to be directed, where he ſhould lodge the ſtock bequeathed in the ſaid clauſe, agreeably to the intention of the teſtator.

The clauſe is in theſe words following, viz. "Item I will "and direct my ſaid executors, out of the monies of my eſtate "to purchaſe the amount of five hundred and thirty-three "dollars and thirty-three cents in ſix per cent ſtock of the "United States, and that the annual intereſt thereof be ap-"propriated forever towards the education of pious youth, "according to the diſcretion of a joint committee of the "General Aſſembly of preſbyterian miniſters, and truſtees "of Princeton college in New-Jerſey, the ſaid committee to "authorize and impower from time to time, a perſon, to "draw and receive ſaid intereſt for the uſe and purpoſe "aforeſaid."

Whereupon

Whereupon resolved, that the above stock, be lodged in the hands of the trustees of New-Jersey college, in order to be applied in the manner and for the purpose contained in the forecited clause.

An overture was laid before the Assembly through the committee of overtures, in the words following, viz; it is proposed to the General Assembly that a plan be recommended, in their resolutions, to presbyteries, to make provision for the support of invalid presbyterian ministers, and the distressed families of any ministers in our communion, who may die in destitute circumstances, on the following principles;

1. That each minister in the respective presbyteries who may have a salary of eighty pounds or upwards, contribute the annual sum of thirty shillings at least, and pay it into the hands of the presbyterial treasurer, to be transmitted to the general treasury as a common stock.

2. That the monies thus collected shall be considered as a fund for charitable purposes, to be applied to the relief of distressed presbyterian ministers and their families.

3. That each presbytery send annually to the General Assembly, a list of such invalid ministers within their bounds, or such ministers' families as may be in necessity, together with a statement of the circumstances of their case, and a recommendation of them as proper objects of the proposed relief.

4. That the General Assembly take order for apportioning the yearly collections amongst the various objects in the most equitable and prudent manner.

5. That the families of all the ministers in the communion of the General Assembly, whether they be contributors or not, who may be in distress, and recommended as above, be

 entitled

entitled to receive a part of this charitable proviſion for their wants.

On motion, ordered, that the above propoſal be tranſmitted to the different presbyteries, who are requeſted to ſignify their opinion thereupon, to the next General Aſſembly.

An overture was laid before the Aſſembly, through the ſynod of Philadelphia, requeſting a diviſion of the presbytery of Carliſle; whereupon, reſolved, that the presbytery be divided into two presbyteries, by a line along the Juniata river, from its mouth up to the Tuſcarora mountain, to the head of the Path-valley, thence Weſtwardly, to the Eaſtern boundary of the presbytery of Redſtone, ſo as to leave the congregation of Bedford to the South; that the miniſters ſettled ſouth of ſaid line, viz. Mr. Snodgraſs, Mr. Waugh, Mr. Linn, Dr. Nesbit, Dr. Davidſon, Mr. Wilſon, Dr. Cooper, Mr. Craighead, Dr. King, Mr. Lang, Mr. M'Pherrin, Mr. Paxton, Mr. Black, Mr. Henderſon, Mr. M'Mordy and Mr. Jones, together with all thoſe who have been ordained, or ſhall be ordained or admitted within the limits now preſcribed for the preſbytery of Carliſle, ſince the laſt annual report from that presbytery until the time when the ſaid presbytery ſhall be diſſolved, ſhall be known by the name of the presbytery of Carliſle, to hold their firſt meeting at Carliſle on the 2d Tueſday of April. Dr. Cooper was appointed to preach a ſermon on that occaſion, and to preſide 'till a new moderator ſhall be choſen, and in caſe of his abſence, the next ſenior miniſter preſent to ſupply his place—And alſo, that the miniſters ſettled north of the aforeſaid line, viz. Mr. Bard, Mr. John Johnſon, Mr. Stephen, Mr. James Johnſon, Mr. M'Gill, Mr. Martin, Mr. Bryſon, Mr. Morriſon, and Mr. Hoge, together with all thoſe who have been ordained or ſhall be ordained or received by the presbytery of Carliſle, within the limits preſcribed for the presbytery of Huntingdon, 'till the time when the preſent presbytery of Carliſle ſhall be diſſolved, ſhall be known by the name of the presbytery of Huntingdon,

Huntingdon, to meet for the firſt time in Mr. Martin's church in Penn's valley, on the 2d Tueſday of April, Mr. Hoge was appointed to preach a ſermon on that occaſion, and to preſide 'till a new moderator ſhall be choſen, and in caſe of his abſence, the ſenior miniſter preſent, to ſupply his place.

A reference was alſo laid before the General Aſſembly from the ſynod of Philadelphia, requeſting a diviſion of the ſynod of Philadelphia, into two ſynods, and after due conſideration of the expediency of the ſaid meaſure, it was decided in the negative.

On motion, reſolved, that Mr. Smith, Dr. Green, and Mr. Snowden, be a committee to ſelect and prepare ſuch parts of the proceedings of the General Aſſembly during their preſent ſeſſion, as they ſhall judge proper to be printed, for the information of the churches, to the number of one thouſand copies and that they ſuperintend the publication and diſperſion of the ſame.

Ordered that the above committee, publiſh a diſtinct liſt of the miniſters and churches ſettled and vacant within the bounds of this Aſſembly, as far as it can be obtained, and alſo, of the ſums of money, if any, collected by each Presbytery or congregation for the funds of the General Aſſembly, together with the diſburſements that have been made. It was moreover enjoined on the committee, that they publiſh the intention of this Aſſembly to annex to every congregation the ſum collected by them reſpectively, in all their future liſts, in order that presbyteries govern themſelves accordingly in their annual reports.

Reſolved, that the next General Aſſembly of this church be held in the presbyterian church of Carliſle on the third Thurſday of May 1795, at 11 o'clock, Ante Meridiem.

Concluded with prayer.

99

A LIST

OF THE

SYNODS PRESBYTERIES LICENTIATES AND CONGREGATIONS.

WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, in the Year 1794. *With a statement of the Monies received and disbursed by the Assembly.*

1. SYNOD *of New-York and New-Jersey.*

1st *The presbytery of Dutchess.*

Ministers.	Congregations.	Collections.
Rev. Solomon Mead,	Salem,	£ 0 0 0
Jehu Minor,	Union,	0 0 0
Blackleach Bamitt, John Davenport, dis. Benjamin Judd,	without charges,	0 0 0
		£ 0 0 0
Licentiates,	Vacant.	
Methusaleh Baldwin,	Bedford,	
	Poundridge,	
	Fredericksstown.	

2d *Presbytery of Long-Island.*

Rev. Samuel Buell,	Easthampton,	0 0 0
Noah Wetmore,	Brook-Haven,	0 0 0

Ministers.

Miniſters.	Congregations.	Collections.
Rev. Benjamin Goldſmith,	Aquabougue and Mattituck,	0 0 0
David Roſe,	South-Haven,	0 0 0
William Schenck,	Huntingdon,	2 18 8
George Faitoute,	Jamaica,	5 12 6
Nathan Woodhull,	New-Town,	0 0 0
Aaron Woolworth,	Bridgehampton,	0 0 0
Herman Dagget,	Southampton,	1 15 0
Elam Potter, Joſhua Hart, Thomas Ruſſel, Wait Cornwell,	Without Charges,	
Licentiates,	Vacant,	
Nathaniel Reeve,	Hampſtead,	
Frederick Halſey,	Smith-Town,	
	Weſthampton,	

Amount received from Long-Iſland preſbytery, £10 6 2

3d *Preſbytery of New-York.*

Rev. Timothy Johnes, D. D.	Morris-Town,	
John Rodgers, D. D.	New-York,	7 16 3
Jonathan Elmer,	Without a charge,	
Benjamin Woodruff,	Weſtfield,	
Alex. M'Whorter, D. D.	New Ark,	
Azel Roe,	Woodbridge,	
Nathan Ker,	Goſhen,	
Jedidiah Chapman,	Orange Dale,	
John Cloſe,	New Windſor and N. Burgh,	
William Woodhull,	Without a charge,	
Alexander Miller,	Academy at Hackinſack,	
Jacob Van Artſdalen,	Springfield,	
John M'Knight, D. D.	New-York,	
Andrew King,	Wallkill,	
John Joline,	Mendham,	
Lemuel Fordham,	Roxbury and Succaſunny,	
David Auſtin,	Elizabeth-Town,	

Miniſters.	Congregations.	Collections.
Rev. Peter Fiſh,	Connecticut, Farms,	
Aſa Hillyer,	South-Hanover,	
Calvin White,	Hanover,	
John J. Carle	Rockaway,	
Samuel Miller,	New-York,	
Jonathan Freeman,	Hopewell and Deer-Park,	
	Vacant Congregations,	
Licentiates,	Rahway.	
Robert Hett Chapman,	Sparta and Hardiſton united,	
Henry Cooke,	Florida and Warwick do.	
Bethuel Dodd,	N. Hempſtead & Haverſtraw do.	
	New-Providence,	
Caſh received from treaſurer of preſbytery		42 17 2
	Amount,	£50 13 5

4th *Preſbytery of New-Brunſwick.*

Rev. John Witherſpoon D. D.	Preſident of New-Jerſey College,	0	0	0
John Hannah,	Kingwood & Bethlahem.	0	0	0
John Woodhull,	Freehold,	5	0	0
Stephen Van Voorhis,	Kingſton & Aſſingpink	0	0	0
Samuel S. Smith, D. D.	V. P. of N. Jerſey College,			
James F. Armſtrong,	Trenton & Maidenhead	2	0	0
Joſeph Rue,	Pennington and Trenton Oldhouſe,	0	0	0
Joſeph Clark,	Allentown and Nottingham,	0	0	0
William Boyd,	Bedminſter,	0	0	0
Peter Wilſon,	Hacketſtown and Mansfield,	0	0	0
Walter Monteath,	Without a charge,			
Aſa Dunham,	M. Bethel & Oxford,	0	0	0
Gilbert T. Snowden,	Cranberry	7	10	0
Thomas Grant,	Amwell,	0	0	0

Miniſters,

Miniſters.	Congregations.	Collections.
Cyrus Guilderſlives,	Medway in Georgia,	0 0 0
Received from the general fund of the preſby.		1 10 0
Amount received of Brunſwick preſby.		£. 16 0 0

Licentiates,	Vacant Congregations
	Baſkenridge,
Samuel F. Snowden,	Greenage and Nolton united,
	Hardwick,
	Newton,
	Shappanack,
	Bridge water,
	New Brunſwick.

5th. *Preſbytery of Albany.*

Rev. John Warford,	Salem,
John M'Donald,	Albany,
John Lindſley,	Galloway,
Simon Hoſack,	Johnſtown,
William B. Ripley,	Eaſt Ballſtown,
Aaron Condict,	Stillwater,
Jonas Coe,	Troy and Lanſingburgh,
Samuel Sturges,	Charlton,

Received from the treauſury of the preſbytery, £. 5 14 9

Licentiates,	Vacant Congregations.
John Dun,	Cherry Valley,
Gerſhom Williams,	Schenectady,
	New Scotland,
	Springfield,
	Hebron,
	Eaſtern Allotment,
	Niagara,
	Whiteſtown,
	Cambridge,
	Platſburgh.

2d. SYNOD *of Philadelphia.*

6th. *Presbytery of Philadelphia:*

Ministers.	Congregations.	Collections.
Rev. John Ewing, D. D.	1st Presbyterian church in Phila.	£. 0 0 0
Francis Peppard,	Allenton,	0 0 0
Samuel Blair, D. D.	Without a charge,	
James Boyd,	Newtown and Bensalem,	0 0 0
Wm. M. Tennent,	Abington, Norrington and N. Providence.	3 13 9
Nathaniel Irwin,	Neshaminy,	2 1 3
Andrew Hunter,	Woodbury,	1 17 6
John B. Smith,	3d. Presb. church in Philadelphia,	20 0 0
Isaac Foster,	Pitts Grove,	2 17 4
Ashbel Green, D. D.	2d. Presb. church in Philadelphia,	28 10 6
Ethan Osborne,	Fairfield,	2 0 0
John Gemmil,	Great Valley, Charleston and West Chester.	1 1 8
Abijah Davis,	Cape May,	1 6 4
Licentiates,	Vacant.	
Nathaniel Harris,	Deerfield,	1 1 6
William Clarkson	Greenwich,	2 0 6
Amount received of Philadelphia presb.		£. 66 10 4

Deep-Run,
Tinnicum,
Penn's Neck,
Bridgetown.

7th. *New Castle Presbytery.*

Rev. Wm. M'Kennan,	Redclay creek and Wilmington,	0 0 0
James Latta,	Chesnut Level,	2 5 0
Collin M'Farquhar,	Donnegal,	0 0 0

Ministers.

Miniſters.	Congregations.	Collections.
Alexander Mitchel,	Upper Octorara and Doe Run,	2 14 0
John M'Creary,	Whiteclay creek and head of Chriſtiana,	6 0 0
Thomas Reid	1ſt. Preſbyterian church in St. George's hundred,	0 0 0
William R. Smith,	Wilmington,	0 0 0
John E. Finley,	Fags Manor,	0 0 0
Nathaniel W. Semple,	Leacock, Lancaſter, and Middle Octorara,	0 0 0
John Burton,	St. George's,	0 0 0
Nathan Grier,	Brandywine Manor,	1 19 9
Samuel Barr,	N. Caſtle & Chriſtiana Bridge	0 0 0
Amount received of N. Caſtle preſbytery,		£6 18 9

Licentiates,	Vacant.
John Thompſon,	Eaſt Nottingham,
Francis Alliſon Latta,	New-London,
Robert Smith,	Little Brittain.
	Pequea,
	Weſt Nottingham,
	Little Britain,
	Middleton,
	Head of Elk,

9th *Preſbytery of Lewis.*

Rev. Jacob Kerr,	Monokin & Wicomoco,	8	10	4
John Rankin,	Buckingham,	4	19	9
Samuel M'Maſters,	Snowhill & Pitts Creek,	3	15	0
Iſaac Tull,	Broad Creek, Fiſhing Creek and Vienna,	3	8	9
William M'Kee,	Murderkiln, Three Runs and St. John's,	4	13	6
Francis Hindman,	Lewis, Cool-Spring & Indian River,	9	0	0
John Collins,	Rehoboth,	3	12	0
Amount received of Lewis preſbytery,		£37	19	4

Miniſters.	Congregations.	Collections.
	Vacant.	
	Dover and Duck Creek croſs roads,	
	Queen Anns.	

10*th* *Preſbytery of Baltimore.*

Rev. John Slemons,	Chanceford,	1	13	6
Patrick Alliſon, D. D.	Baltimore,	37	10	0
George Luckey,	Bethel and Centre,	0	0	0
James Muir,	Alexandria,	11	12	6
Stephen B. Balch,	George Town on Pot,	0	0	0
Caleb Johnſon,	Deer Creek,	0	0	0
Enoch Matoon,	Bermuda,	0	0	0
Licentiates.	Vacant.			
	Bladenſburg and Captain John,			
Cunningham Semple,	Frederick and State Ridge,			
Samuel Martin,	Soldiers Delight.			

Amount received in Baltimore preſbytery £50 16 0

11*th* *Preſbytery of Carliſle.*

Rev. Robert M'Mordie,	Without a charge,			
Charles Niſbet, D. D.	Preſident of Dickinſon College.			
Robert Cooper, D. D.	Middle Spring,			
James Lang,	Eaſt Connecocheague,			
John Craighead,	Rocky Spring,			
John King, D. D.	Upper Weſt Conecocheague,			
Thomas M. Pherrin,	Lower Eaſt and Lower Weſt Connecocheague,			
Robert Davidſon D. D.	Carliſle,	9	3	9
Daniel Jones,	Without a charge,			
John Black,	Without a charge,			
David Denny,	Path Valley,			
John Linn,	Shermans Valley,			
Samuel Waugh,	Eaſt Pennſborough & Monnahan,			
Joſ. Henderſon,	Great Connewago,			

Miniſters

Miniſters.	Congregations.	Collections.
James Snodgraſs,	Hanover,	
John Boyd,	Tuſcarora and Falling waters,	
Samuel Wilſon,	Big Spring,	
William Paxton,	Upper Marſh creek,	
Robert Cathcart,	York Town and Hopewell,	
Nathl. R. Snowden,	Harriſburgh, Paxton and Derry,	3 o o
Received from Mr. Waugh as from the preſbytery		17 o o
Amount received in Carliſle preſbytery.		£29 3 9

Licentiates.
William Speer, and James M'Lene,
Samuel Mahon,

It appears that there are about ten vacancies in this preſbytery, but their names have not been reported.

12th *Preſbytery of Huntingdon.*

Rev. John Hoge,	No charge,	
Hugh M'Gill,	Tuſcarora and Cedar Spring,	
James Martin,	Penn's valley,	
David Bard,	Frankſtown,	
Mathew Stephen,	Derry and Waine on the Juniata,	
James Johnſton,	Kiſhacoquillas,	
Hugh Morriſon,	Sunbury, Northumberland town and Buffalo Valley.	
John Johnſton,	Hart's Log & Shaver's creek.	
John Bryſon,		
Iſaac Grier,	Great Iſland, Pine creek & Lycoming	
David Wiley,	Penn's Valley and Cedar creek,	

This preſbytery was formed by the General Aſſembly at their laſt meeting. The vacant congregations and the contributions are given as belonging to the preſbytery of Carliſle from which it was ſet off.

SYNOD *of Virginia.*

13. *Preſbytery of Redſtone.*

Revd. James Finley,	Miniſters.

Miniſters.	Congregations.	Collections.
James Power,		
James Dunlap,		
Jacob Jennings,		
John M'Pherrin,		
Samuel Porter,		
George Hill,		

The whole number of congregations under the care of Redſtone Preſbytery is ſtated in the report of the ſynod of Virginia to be 48. But no returns has been made of the names of the congregations either ſettled or vacant. All the miniſters mentioned above have charges.

Licentiates.

William Swan,
David Smith,
Thomas Marquis,
Boyd Mercer,

14. *Ohio Preſbytery.*

Rev. John Clark,	Bethel,
John M'Millan,	Chartiers and Pigeon Creek,
Joſeph Patterſon,	Racoon and Mantuers Run,
James Hughes,	Buffalo and Short Creek,
John Bryce,	Three Ridges and Wheelin,

15. *Preſbytery of Hanover.*

Rev. James Waddel, D. D.	Without a charge,
William Irwin,	Without a charge,
James Mitchel,	Peaks, Bethel, and Piſgah,
John D. Blair,	Hanover and Richmond,
Archibald M'Roberts,	Without a charge,
Drury Lacy,	Cumberland, Briery, Buffalo and Cub-Creek.
William Mahon,	Concord,
James Turner,	Colleague to M. Mitchel

Miniſters.

108

Miniſters.	Congregations.	Collections.
Licentiates,		
Meſſrs. Carey Allen,		
William Calhoon,		
Samuel Brown,		

No return of names or number of vacant congregations has been received from this preſbytery.

17. *Preſbytery of Lexington.*

Rev. John Brown,	Providence,	
William Graham	Lexington and Halls meeting houſe.	
Archibald Scott,	Bethel & Brown's meeting houſe.	
Edward Crawford,	Without a charge,	
John Montgomery,	Calf Paſture,	
Benjamin Erwin,	Moſſy creek, & Cook's creek,	
William Wilſon,	Auguſta,	
Moſes Hoge,	Shepherd's town,	
John M'Cre,	Tinkling Spring & Stanton,	
Samuel Houſton,	Oxford and Falling Spring,	
Naſh Le Grand,	Cedar creek, Opehen and Wincheſter,	
William Hill,	Bull ſkin,	
John Campbell,	Colleague to Mr. Graham,	
Licentiates,		
Meſſrs. John Lile,		
Thomas Poage,		
Archibald Alexander,		
Matthew Lyle,		
Benjamin Grigſly,		
Mathew Houſton,		
Adam Freeman,		

The names and number of vacancies in this preſbytery have not been returned.

Miniſters.

18th *Preſbytery of Tranſylvania.*

From this preſbytery no reports have been made either to their ſynod or to the General Aſſembly.

SYNOD *of the Carolinas.*

19th *Preſbytery of Orange.*

Rev. Henry Pattillo	Graſſy creek and Nut Buſh,
David Caldwell,	Buffalo and Alamance,
Samuel M'Corkle D. D.	Thyatira and Salf bury,
James Hall,	Bethany,
Robert Archibald,	Without a charge,
James M'Ree	Steel Creek,
David Barr,	Philadelphia,
Jacob Lake,	New-Hope,
William Moore.	Middle, Lower and Upper Hico,
David Kerr,	Fayettville,
William Hodge,	Hawfields,
Samuel C. Caldwell,	Sugar Creek and Hopewell,
James Wallace,	New Providence,
James M'Gready,	Haw River and Harts Chapel,
Joſeph Kilpatrick,	Joppa Third Creek and Unity,
Lewis F. Wilſon,	Concord and Fourth Creek,
Alexander Caldwell,	Poplar Tent and Rocky River,
Angus M'Dermot,	Bluff, Barbacue, and M'Kay's,
Samuel Standford,	Lamberton and Raft Swamp.
Collin Lindſay,	Black River Chapel.

Licentiates,

Meſſrs. John Bowman.
Samuel Davis,
John Robinſon,
John Carrigan,
James Bowman,
John M'Kenny Wilſon,
William M'Gee,
George M'Whorter,
Curry Barnett,

Miniſters.

Twenty-two vacancies but their names have not been returned.

21*ſt* *Preſbytery of South Carolina.*

From this preſbytery no report has been received by the Aſſembly.

22*d* *Preſbytery of Abington.*

From this preſbytery no report has reached the Aſſembly.

TREASURERS ACCOMPT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in his hands due to the General Aſſembly as ſettled May 20th, 1793,				220	8 3
Total amount received of the preſbyteries in 1794				274	2 6
Collection made in the year 1793 rec. by him ſince ſettlement viz. rec. of the treaſ. of N. York preſby.		23	18 7		
Do.	of N. Brunſwick do.	15	0 0		
Do.	of Albany do.	6	12 7		
Do.	of Carliſle do.	4	10 0		
Nath. Irwin for his church,		3	0 0		
				53	1 2
Received for confeſſion of faith ſold,				5	8 0
Received of the following miſſionaries, money which they received while on their reſpective tours, viz.					
Rec. of Rev. Benjamin Judd, in his three tours		23	19 0		
John M'Donald,		2	17 6		
Ira Condict,		4	9 0		
William Spear,		2	0 0		
				33	5 6

Received

Received of the Rev. Dr. Witherſpoon treaſ. to the late ſynod of New York, and Philadelphia the balance due from him,					57	17 3
					644	2 8

Diſburſements.

To the Rev. Ira Condict in full of his miſſion	43	15	0			
Benjamin Judd, do.	112	10	0			
John M'Donald do.	25	0	0			
William Spear, do.	25	0	0			
John Craighead, do.	15	12	6			
Cunningham Semple's advance on account of his do.	22	10	0			
				244	7	6
To the ſtated clerk for tranſcribing the minutes of the years 1792 and 1793,				13	2	6
To the Janitor for attendance on the general aſſembly at their ſeſſions in the 1793,				4	8	8
To R. Aitken for printing extracts for the year 1793				6	0	0
To the Commiſſioners to the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, viz.						
Rev. John Rodgers, D. D.	1	17	6			
Aaron Woolworth,	1	17	6			
John Woodhull.	4	13	9			
				8	8	9
To Rev. Dr. Rogers for freight of a box of books				0	15	0
To Rev. James Latta, Alexander Mitchel and Nathan Grier and Executors of Rev. Dr. Robert Smith, deceaſed being a committee appointed to prepare materials for a new edition of the confeſſion of faith,				45	0	0
Balance due to the General Aſſembly,				322	0	3
				£644	2	8

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH;

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

A. D. 1795 & 1796.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY SAMUEL H. SMITH No. 118, CHESNUT STREET.

M.DCC.XCVI.

Philadelphia, May 19th, 1796.

Ordered, that Doctors Tennent and John B. Smith, Mr. Alexander and Mr. Snowden, be a committee to have such parts of the minutes of the sessions of the General Assembly in the preceding and present year printed, as they may judge will be of advantage to the Church, together with an account of the collections made, agreeably to the order of the General Assembly, for defraying the expences of sending Missionaries to preach the gospel on the frontiers.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

Minutes of the General Assembly

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in the United States, for the year 1795.

May 21st, 1795.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, according to appointment, in the Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, and was opened with a sermon by the Reverend Doctor M'Whorter, the last year's moderator, from Acts xx. 24. "But "none of these things move me; neither count I my life dear "unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and "the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to tes- "tify the gospel of the grace of God." The Reverend Doctor John M'Knight was chosen moderator, and Mr. J. F. Armstrong and G. Van Andsdolen clerks; The following Presbyteries were represented by commissioners, viz;—New-York, New-Brunswick, Philadelphia, New-Castle, Lewis, Baltimore, Carlisle, Red-Stone, Ohio, Transylvania, Orange, Long-Island, Dutchess, and Albany.

Mr. C. Semple reported that he had fulfilled the missions appointed him by the General Assembly, and a mission appointed by the Presbytery of Baltimore, by order of the General Assembly.

Mr. Robert Smith reported, that he had ſpent four months in fulfilling the miſſions appointed him by the General Aſſembly. Both of the miſſionaries informed the General Aſſembly, that moſt of the places where they preached appeared to be duly ſenſible of the care and intention of the General Aſſembly, in ſending miſſionaries to preach the goſpel among them, and requeſted a continuance of miſſionaries, as there was every appearance of the moſt important advantages from the proſecution of this plan.

Dr. M'Whorter laid before the General Aſſembly, an extract from the minutes of the proceedings of the general aſſociation of the ſtate of Connecticut, which was as follows:—

"The motion of the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian Church, that the delegates from that Aſſembly to this aſſociation, and the delegates from this aſſociation to that aſſembly, be impowered to vote in all queſtions decided in thoſe bodies reſpectively, was taken into conſideration; and after diſcuſſion, the General Aſſociation voted a compliance with the ſaid propoſal."

Doctors Aſhbel Green and William M. Tennent, and Mr. Gemmil, were duly choſen to attend the next general aſſociation.

On motion, reſolved that Mr. John B. Smith, Mr. William Boyd, and Mr. Gilbert Snowden, be a committee to meet the board of truſtees of New-Jerſey college, at the next commencement, to be held at Princeton, for the purpoſe of aſcertaining the amount of the funds in the hands of ſaid board, the intereſt of which is ſubject to the appropriation of the General Aſſembly, and to direct the appropriation of any intereſt which may have accrued by that time.

The following requeſt was overtured, that the ſynods of Virginia and the Carolinas have liberty to direct their Preſbyteries to ordain ſuch candidates as they may judge neceſſary to appoint on miſſions, to preach the goſpel; whereupon,

Reſolved, that the above requeſt be granted—the ſynods

being careful to reſtrict the permiſſion to the ordination of ſuch candidates only, as are engaged to be ſent on miſſions.

Meſſrs. Thatcher, Porter, Semple, and M'Clain were appointed miſſionaries.

A committee was appointed to prepare a draught of a charter for incorporating the General Aſſembly.

The following overture was brought in, viz.

" A ſerious and conſcientious perſon, a member of a Preſbyterian congregation, who views the ſlavery of the negroes as a moral evil, highly offenſive to God and injurious to the intereſts of the goſpel, lives under the miniſtry of a perſon, or amongſt a ſociety of people, who concur with him in ſentiment on the ſubject upon general principles; yet for particular reaſons, hold ſlaves and tolerate the practice in others: Ought the former of theſe perſons, under the impreſſions and circumſtances above deſcribed, to hold chriſtian communion with the latter?"

Whereupon, after due deliberation, it was reſolved, that as the ſame difference of opinion with reſpect to ſlavery takes place in ſundry other parts of the Preſbyterian church, notwithſtanding which they live in charity and peace, according to the doctrine and practice of the apoſtles, it is hereby recommended to all conſcientious perſons, and eſpecially to thoſe whom it immediately reſpects, to do the ſame—At the ſame time the General Aſſembly aſſure all the churches under their care, that they view, with the deepeſt concern, any veſtiges of ſlavery which may exiſt in our country, and refer the churches to the records of the General Aſſembly publiſhed at different times; but eſpecially to an overture of the late ſynod of New-York and Philadelphia, publiſhed in 1787 and republiſhed among the extracts from the minutes of the General Aſſembly of 1793, on that head, with which, they truſt, every conſcientious perſon will be fully ſatisfied.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

Minutes of the General Assembly

OF THE

Presbyterian Church in the United States, for the year 1796.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met according to appointment in the first Presbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia; and was opened with a sermon by the Reverend Doctor John M'Knight, the last year's moderator, from 2 Cor. iv. 5.—"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

The following Presbyteries were represented by commissioners, viz. Long Island, Albany, New-York, New-Brunswick, Philadelphia, New-Castle, Carlisle, Lewis, Baltimore, Huntingdon, Redstone, Ohio, and Hanover.

From all the other Presbyteries, there were no commissioners present.

The Reverend Cotton Mather Smith, and the Reverend Nathan Fenn appeared in the Assembly, and produced a certificate from the general association of the state of Connecticut, specifying their appointment to represent said association in the General Assembly, and took their seats accordingly.

The Assembly then proceeded to the choice of a moderator, and the Reverend Doctor Robert Davidson was elected to

that office; and the Reverend Robert Cathcart and the Reverend Jonas Coe were elected clerks.

A petition from the Presbytery of Orange was handed in by the committee of bills and overtures, and was read, praying that some rules and regulations from the proceedings of the former Synod of New-York and Philadelphia, additional to our present discipline, should be adopted.

On motion, to dismiss the above petition, it was determined in the negative. And,

Resolved, that said petition be committed to Doctor Green, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Irwin, who are to report thereon to the next General Assembly.

The delegates, who were appointed last year to meet the general association of Connecticut, made the following report, which was accepted, viz.

That the whole delegation of the Assembly attended the association, during the entire period of its session, and were received and treated with the utmost cordiality and respect. That the greater part of the business of the association related, as is usual, to the peculiar circumstances of those churches of which it is constituted an advisory council. That there were two articles, however, which as having a more extensive relation, your delegates think proper to specify; the first of these was the sending of missionaries to preach the gospel and organize churches on the frontiers of the country; in which your delegates were happy to observe the association animated with a very laudable zeal, governed in general by a system similar to that adopted by the Assembly, and disposed fully to harmonize with them in the pursuit of the important object; —the second article, particularly referred to, was a recommendation to the churches under the care of the Association, of seasons for special prayer for the revival of religion, in which was mentioned with approbation a plan which had already been adopted by some churches, both under their care,

and that of the Aſſembly, of appropriating to this purpoſe the afternoon of the firſt Tueſday of every quarter of the year.

The General Aſſembly proceeded to the election of delegates to the next General Aſſociation of Connecticut, when it appeared that Dr. John M'Knight, the Reverend Azel Roe, and the Reverend Nathaniel Irwin, were duly choſen, and are hereby ordered to give an account of their diligence, in the buſineſs of their delegation, to the next General Aſſembly.

A paper was brought into the aſſembly, through the committee of overtures, in which it was ſtated—that at the Preſbyterian church in the borough of York on Wedneſday, the 28th of October, 1795, a number of members, belonging to the ſynod of Philadelphia, met according to adjournment; but could not proceed to buſineſs, becauſe there were not preſent three members from any two Preſbyteries, within the bounds of ſaid ſynod *.

And whereas, it appeared that the ſynod of Philadelphia did not meet according to its laſt adjournment, nor ſince the time to which it was adjourned; on motion reſolved, that Dr. Robert Davidſon, the moderator of the ſynod of Philadelphia, ought to be conſidered as competent to call a meeting of the ſame, and that he do accordingly call a meeting to be held in the 3d Preſbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on the 4th Wedneſday of October next.

After conſidering further the preceding repreſentation; on motion reſolved, as the opinion of the Aſſembly, that from the nature of the thing, two or more members of any judicature, meeting according to adjournment, may adjourn from day to day, until a ſufficient number attend for the tranſaction of bu-

* A queſtion having ariſen upon the above ſtatement, whether the ſynod of Philadelphia, was conſtitutionally convened or not at that time, after a conſiderable diſcuſſion, a final determination was precluded by the previous queſtion being moved and carried.

fineſs ; and in caſe a quorum ſhould not attend within a reaſonable time, that the moderator ſhall be conſidered as competent to fix any time and place he may judge proper, for convening the body ; and if he be abſent, that the members aſſembled ſhall repreſent the matter ſpeedily to him, that he may act accordingly.

Mr. Thatcher, Mr. Porter and Mr. M'Clean, miſſionaries under the Aſſembly, reported, that they had fulfilled the miſſions reſpectively aſſigned them, and that moſt of the places, where they preached, appeared to be duly ſenſible of the care and attention of the General Aſſembly in ſending miſſionaries to preach the goſpel among them, and requeſted a continuance of miſſionaries, as there was every appearance, that the moſt important advantages would reſult from the proſecution of this plan.

The General Aſſembly heard, with approbation, the narratives of theſe miſſionaries reſpecting the ſtate of religion in the places where they had preached, and approved of their fidelity and diligence in fulfilling their reſpective miſſions. Mr. C. Semple and Mr. Judd were not preſent, but their narratives were produced and read.

No official reports were made by the ſynods of Virginia and the Carolinas reſpecting miſſions.

It appeared that the committee appointed to attend the meeting of the corporation of Princeton college, relative to certain funds under the control of this Aſſembly, were not able to execute the buſineſs committed to them ; but the following extract from the records of the corporation was laid before the Aſſembly, viz.

1. Reſolved, that each of the ſeveral funds mentioned in the ſaid report be debited with its proportion of the loſſes ſuſtained by depreciation, bad debts, and abatement of intereſt during the war, at the rate of ſixty ſix per cent. agreeably to the ſtatement of the committee of accounts.

2d. Reſolved, that the board will appropriate the intereſt ariſing on the money depoſited with them, by Meſſrs. Tennent and Davies, in the year 1755, to the education of ſuch poor and pious youth, as ſhall be nominated by the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian church—which money, after making the deductions ſtated in the firſt reſolution, is one hundred and fifty two pounds ſix ſhillings and five pence.

3d. Reſolved, that the intereſt ariſing on the two hundred pounds ſterl. heretofore agreed between the ſynod and the board, to be equivalent to three hundred pounds currency, given for the ſupport of an Indian miſſion, or the ſupport of a youth to be educated, for the purpoſe of preaching to the Indians, ſhall be appropriated by the board to the education of a youth to be deſignated by the General Aſſembly. This ſum to be ſubject to the ſame deductions as ſpecified in the laſt reſolution, and which, when thus reduced, is one hundred and two pounds currency.

ASHBEL GREEN, *Clerk pro tempore.*

A committee was appointed to arrange the missionary business for the ensuing year, which reported:

THAT Mr. Thatcher be appointed a missionary for the term of one year, and proceed on the rout prescribed to him last year, except where he shall judge it more for the interest of the church of Christ to extend his labours into adjacent settlements, and that he pay particular attention to those places from which applications have been received, and where he believes the stated administration of gospel ordinances may most easily be accomplished.

That Mr. Read of the presbytery of New Castle be appointed a missionary for the term of two months, on the eastern shore of Maryland and Virginia, to begin his labours in Queen Ann's County, to proceed from thence through Talbot, Caroline, Dorset, Somerset, Accomack and Northampton, paying particular attention to the more distitute settlements and churches, as his prudence shall direct.

That Mr. Cram be appointed a missionary for two months, beginning his labours within the bounds of the presbytery of Redstone and Ohio—That Mr. Harris be appointed a Missionary for the term of three months, to commence his labours as soon as convenient, and that he pursue the same rout, prescribed to Mr. M'Clean last year.

The committee appointed to revise the proofs of the confession of faith &c. and to superintend the publication and sale thereof, reported: That they had made considerable progress

in the work, and had part of the book ready for publication; but that for want of sufficient funds they were not able to proceed in the publication of it.

On motion, resolved, that the committee proceed to have an impression of the confession of faith struck off as soon as in their power, and that they take the best measures they can devise to have it executed, and upon the most reasonable terms; and that there be 4,000 copies printed, and that subscription papers be distributed throughout the bounds of the General Assembly, and the members are hereby requested to interest themselves in procuring subscribers for assisting the funds of the General Assembly in defraying the expences of the work.

Resolved also, that the price of the book be one dollar to subscribers.

Ordered that the copies of proposals for printing the confession of faith &c. of this church be sent to the different Presbyteries under the care of this Assembly, and that the members forward as soon as possible the different sums of money, which they shall receive, to Isaac Snowden, Esquire, the treasurer of the General Assembly, in order that the work may be published with all convenient speed.

The General Assembly, taking into serious consideration the general aspect of religion, the great decay of vital piety, and the prevalence of infidelity and immorality, and being deeply affected thereby, agreed to urge in the most earnest manner upon all their members the utmost diligence, prudence, zeal, and perseverance, in the discharge of the duties of their office and stations; and that they prosecute those measures, agreeable to the word of God, which they may judge most conducive to counteract the existing evils, and most effectually serve the interests of evangelical principles and of true and undefiled religion; and would recommend that

ſome particular times be ſet apart, as ſpecial ſeaſons of prayer with reſpect to theſe objects, as may be found moſt convenient in their reſpective circumſtances.

Reſolved, that the next General Aſſembly meet in the firſt Preſbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thurſday of May 1797, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Concluded with Prayer.

ROBERT DAVIDSON, Moderator.

Since the laſt publication, the following ſums of money have been received, from the following churches.

	£		
Newton,	1	10	0
Allentown,	2	3	4
Greenwich,	2	17	9
Deep Run,	0	15	0
Ditto,	0	7	6
Forks of Brandywine,	3	1	0
Treaſurer of Long Iſland Preſbytery,	3	14	4
Third Preſbyterian church, Philadelphia,	5	0	0
Cranbury,	8	5	0
Ditto,	8	0	0
New Brunſwick,	6	0	0
Ditto,	5	0	0
Bound Brook,	4	0	0
Freehold,	7	0	0
Ditto,	6	5	0
Baſkenridge,	3	0	0
Ditto,	3	0	0
Greenwich in Suſſex,	3	0	0
Pennington, Trenton and Old Houſe,	3	17	4
Ditto,	2	0	0
Trenton,	3	0	0
Ditto,	3	0	0
Maidenhead,	3	0	0
Ditto,	3	0	0
Allentown and Nottingham,	4	0	0
Hacket's town and Mansfield woodhouſe,	4	0	0
Ditto,	2	0	0
Bethlehem and Kingwood,	5	2	10
Ditto,	5	0	0
Mount Bethel,	2	5	0

Oxford,	£1	1	0
Shrewſbury and Shork river,	1	10	0
Ditto,	1	10	0
Bedminſter,	4	0	0
Ditto,	3	0	0
Princeton,	3	0	0
Lewis Town, Indian river,	9	0	0
Snow Hill and Pitt's town,	3	6	9
Deerfield,	0	19	0
Great Iſland, Pine creek and Lycoming,	2	5	0
Ditto,	2	5	0
Penn's valley and Cedar creek,	1	10	0
Ditto,	1	2	6
Forks of Neſhaminey,	1	5	0
Ditto,	1	10	0
Leacock,	3	0	0
Baltimore,	30	0	0
Ditto,	26	5	0
Alexandria,	7	10	0
Georgetown,	1	2	6
Path Valley,	1	2	6
Ditto,	1	13	0
York and Hopewell,	4	0	0
Ditto,	5	5	0
Chamberſburgh,	1	13	0
Ditto,	1	10	0
Great Connewago,	2	5	0
Tuſcarora and Falling waters,	2	2	5½
Lower Marſh creek and Tomb's creek,	1	9	7½
Ditto,	5	5	10
Harriſburgh,	1	2	6
Lower Eaſt and Weſt Connegocheague,	2	10	0
Ditto,	1	2	6
Carliſle,	10	1	2
Ditto,	9	5	7
Eaſt Penn's borough and Monnaghan,	1	2	6
Ditto,	1	2	6

	£	s	d
Upper Weſt Connegocheague, -	3	0	0
Ditto, - - -	1	10	0
Sherman's valley, - - -	1	2	6
Ditto, - - -	1	2	6
Upper Octarara and Doe Run, - -	3	3	9
St. Georges, - - - - -	9	0	0
Cape May, - - - -	0	15	0
Abbington and Providence, -	3	11	6
Ditto, - - -	1	0	0
Bladenſburgh, - - -	4	0	3
Treaſurer of New-York Preſbytery, -	29	1	3
Ditto, - - - -	12	17	1
Second Preſbyterian church, Philadelphia,	19	17	6
United Preſbyterian churches of New-York,	35	9	2
Buffaloe, Sunbury and Northumberland,	1	2	6
Derry and Wayne, - - -	0	12	3
Warrior's Run and Cheſhequoqullas, -	1	17	6
Eaſt Connegocheague, - - -	1	10	0
Rocky Spring, - - -	3	7	6
Buckingham, - - - -	6	12	0
Boundbrook, - - -	2	15	0
Newton and Hardwick, - -	2	16	3
Kingſton, - - -	2	5	0
Nottingham in Jerſey, - - -	3	15	0
Oxford and Bethel, - - -	3	9	4
Total collections, - -	425	11	10
Balance in the hands of the treaſurer, for ſettlement, May 21ſt, 1794, -	322	0	3
Received by Miſſionaries on their ſeveral Miſſions, - -	64	12	0
Total receipts - - -	812	4	1

Disbursements.

Cash paid to Missionaries, - -	£459	3	9
Ditto, do. paid for printing, binding, transcribing, and sundry incidental expences, -	76	2	6
Balance remaining in the treasury, per settlement by committee of Assembly, May 24th, 1796,	276	17	10
	£812	4	1

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

United States

OF

AMERICA.

MAY 18, 1797.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY WILLIAM W. WOODWARD, No. 17,
CHESNUT STREET.

1797.

ORDERED, That Dr. Smith, Mr. Black, and Mr. Finley be a Committee to select for publication such parts of the Minutes of the present General Assembly as they may judge to be of general utility.

Extract from the Minutes of the General Assembly at Philadelphia, May, 1797.

Philadelphia, May 18, 1797,

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, according to appointment, in the first Presbyterian Church, in the City of Philadelphia, and was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Robert Davidson, the last year's Moderator, from Psalm lxxii. 17. "His name shall endure for ever: his "name shall be continued as long as the sun; and men shall be blessed in him; all nations shall call him blessed."

After prayer, the Commissioners produced their commissions, which were read in the Assembly, agreeably to the Constitution, and it appeared that the following members were duly appointed; viz:

From the Presbytery of Albany, Dr. John B. Smith, and Simon Hosack, Ministers. Alexander Kelly, Elder.—Hudson Presbytery, Jonathan Freeman, Methuselah Baldwin, Ministers.—Long-Island Presbytery, William Schenk, Minister.—New-York Presbytery, Dr. John Rodgers, Jedidiah Chapman, James Richards, Ministers. Benjamin Corray, Jonas Philips, and Nathaniel Little, Elders.—New-Brunswick Presbytery, James F. Armstrong, John Woodhull, Robert Finley, Ministers. John Bayard, Henry Southard, Peter Gordon, Elders.—Philadelphia Presbytery, Drs. William M. Tennent and Ashbel Green, and John Davenport, Ministers. John M'Culloch and Zephaniah Lawrence, Elders.—New-Castle Presbytery, William Arthur, Francis A. Latta, Nathan Grier, Ministers. Eleazar M'Comb, John Whitehill, William Hunter, Elders.—Carlisle Presbytery, Dr. Robert Davidson, John Black, Robert Cathcart, William Spear, Ministers. Benjamin Blythe, Elder.—Lewes Presbytery, John Collins, Minister. Baltimore Presbytery, Dr. Patrick Allison, Adam Freeman, John Brackenridge, Ministers.—Red-stone Presbytery, William Swan, Samuel Porter, Ministers.—Ohio Presbytery, Samuel Ralston, James Hughes, Ministers.—

Wincheſter Preſbytery, William Hill, Miniſter; Alexander White, Elder.—Orange Preſbytery, James Bowman, Miniſter.—Concord Preſbytery, Joſeph Kirkpatrick, Miniſter.—South-Carolina Preſbytery, William C. Davis, Miniſter.——From the Preſbyteries of Huntington, Lexington, Hanover, Abingdon, and Tranſylvania there were no Commiſſioners.

The Rev. David Tullar and Stephen W. Stebbings appeared in the Aſſembly, and preſented teſtimonials of their appointment by the general Aſſociation of the ſtate of Connecticut to repreſent that body in this Aſſembly. They took their ſeats accordingly.

The laſt Delegates from the Aſſembly to the general Aſſociation of Connecticut, made no report. Ordered, that they report to the next general Aſſembly.

The Rev. Meſſrs. James F. Armſtrong, S. Miller, and James Richards were appointed delegates to the next general Aſſociation of the ſtate of Connecticut, to meet at Windham the third Tueſday of June next. Mr. Hunter was ordered to ſupply the pulpit of Mr. Armſtrong at Trenton, the third ſabbath in June, and at Maidenhead the fourth do. and Mr. James Boyd the firſt ſabbath of July at Trenton. Mr. Robert H. Chapman to ſupply the pulpit of Mr. Miller on the third ſabbath of June; Mr. J. Chapman the fourth do. and Mr. A. Condict to ſupply Mr. J. Chapman's pulpit the ſame day. Dr. Green to ſupply the pulpit of Mr. J. Richards the third ſabbath of June; and Mr. F. Latta that of Dr. Green in his abſence. Mr. John J. Carle to ſupply Mr. Richards' pulpit the fourth ſabbath of June, and Mr. Amzi Armſtrong the firſt ſabbath of July.

The General Aſſembly heard the reports of Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Cram, two of their miſſionaries, and highly approved the diligence and judgment they manifeſted in the execution of their miſſion.

In conſequence of a petition from the Preſbytery of Orange, Mr. N. Irwin was appointed to ſelect from the proceedings of the late Synod of New-York and Philadelphia, ſuch rules and regulations as appear to merit attention, and lay them before the next General Aſſembly for their conſideration.

The Committee appointed by the General Assembly reported, that they examined the accounts of the Treasurer, and the vouchers for the same, since the last settlement; and find them just and true, and that there is a balance of £.176. 2. 2. in the hands of the Treasurer, due to the Assembly.

The committee of overtures laid before the Assembly sundry papers relative to the situation of the church in the bounds of Abingdon Presbytery. After reading the whole, and hearing Mr. Samuel Doake, one of the ministers mentioned in the said papers, with regard to the subject contained in them, on motion, it was resolved, that as it appears that the business is now pending before the Synod of the Carolinas, and there is an adjourned meeting of said Synod with a view to issue it, the Assembly ought not judicially to interfere in it, till it shall be decided upon by the Synod, and a regular appeal be made from said decision, or the whole matter be referred, by that judicatory, to the Assembly. And they hereby recommend to the Synod of the Carolinas to continue their laudable and prudent endeavours to bring the present dispute to a speedy issue.

A Committee was appointed to draught an address to the ministers and other members of the churches in the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon, which address is as follows:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to the Ministers and other members of the Churches within the bounds of the Presbytery of Abingdon.

Friends and Fellow-Christians,

IT is with extreme sorrow and regret that we are constrained to address you on the present occasion. At our present sessions we have learned, from various information, that ferments, animosities and divisions exist, in an alarming degree, amongst you, who have heretofore been united under one common denomination. In directing our attention to these circumstances, we perceive, with pain, that novel opinions, or at least opinions presented in a novel dress and appearance, have been openly and extensively circulated amongst you, and have excited unusual a-

larm; whilſt at the ſame time they have given riſe to much contention. We are alſo apprehenſive, that in oppoſing what is thought to be a departure from the plainneſs and ſimplicity of our received doctrines, ſome of our brethren have been precipitate in their conduct. They appear to have ſeparated from their brethren, without having in a conſtitutional manner obtained the advice and deciſion of the different judicatories whoſe authority they had been uſed to acknowledge.

Whilſt we expreſs our deep concern at theſe unhappy circumſtances, we do not conceive ourſelves warranted to enter into a judicial inveſtigation of them; nor to form any deciſion thereon at preſent; as they have not yet been brought regularly before us. We have, therefore, thought proper to leave the whole matter to the Synod of the Carolinas, on whoſe judgment, fidelity, zeal, and diſcretion we have the greateſt reliance; and whoſe members muſt have the beſt opportunities of being acquainted with all the facts and circumſtances. But whilſt we thus expreſs our confidence that the competent judicatory will diſcharge their duty faithfully, we think it our duty to ſay ſomething with regard to ourſelves. We take the preſent occaſion of declaring our uniform adherence to the doctrines contained in our Confeſſion of Faith, in their preſent plain and intelligible form; and our fixed determination to maintain them againſt all innovations. We earneſtly with that nothing ſubverſive of theſe doctrines may be ſuffered to exiſt, or to be circulated amongſt the churches; we hope, that even new explanations of our known principles by unuſual and offenſive phraſes, will be cautiouſly guarded againſt, leſt the feelings of Chriſtians ſhould be wounded; the cauſe of religion injured; and the enemy take occaſion to triumph and blaſpheme. We are alſo extremely anxious that the peace of the church, as well as its purity of doctrine, may be preſerved inviolate; that every thing calculated to inflame the paſſions, to invert the order of the church, or to interrupt and diſturb its union will be cautiouſly avoided. We are willing to hope, that both miniſters and private Chriſtians will feel all the force of the Saviour's character and example, who was meek and unaſſuming, who when he was reviled, reviled not again, and who invites us to learn of him the ſame temper. We

conjure you, brethren, to consider the nature and genius of our holy and peaceful religion, and to act under its influence. Pray for the Spirit of grace to be poured forth upon the church in a plentiful effusion, as the best enlightener of the mind, and healer of divisions. Consider the eternal obligations under which you are held to promote the glory of our common Lord and Saviour, and to contribute, as Christians, your united efforts towards the increase, purity, peace, and prosperity of his church. This duty is clear and express; and the obligation seems to acquire peculiar force at this time of general calamity to religion, and of more fearful expectation. When infidelity is bold, and, in the expectation of its friends, almost triumphant; when the most pernicious errors are adopted, and published by professed Christians; and when indifference, formality, and abounding iniquity amongst many of better principles, afford sad symptoms of the decline of pure religion, it is high time for the ministers and other members of the church of Christ, to awake to a sense of their situation and duty. In this way the Spirit of the Lord may lift up a standard against the common enemy, when he comes in like a flood.

We cannot forbear to urge upon all who may have been dissatisfied with the conduct of their judicatories, or who may have been influenced by extraordinary misrepresentations, to return into a connexion with their brethren; not doubting but that they will be treated with tenderness and regard.

Finally, we sincerely wish and request, that all parties may submit to the jurisdiction, advice, and decisions of the Synod of the Carolinas; that their hands may be strengthened in checking error, healing divisions, and maintaining the strict and prudent exercise of discipline. But whilst we thus exhort to a Christian submission to the authority of your brethren in the Lord, we at the same time assure you that the door is ever open for appeal to the supreme judicatory of our church, in every case where it may be apprehended by you to be necessary.

A reference from the Synod of Virginia was received through the committee of overtures, respecting a certain person, who had married his former wife's half-brother's daughter; requesting the opinion of the Assembly, whe-

ther ſuch perſons may be admitted to church privileges. Whereupon reſolved, that although the Aſſembly would wiſh to diſcountenance imprudent marriages, or ſuch as tend, in any way, to give uneaſineſs to ſerious perſons, yet it is their opinion, that the marriage referred to, is not of ſuch a nature as to render it neceſſary to exclude the parties from the privileges of the church.

The following queſtion, "Whether teſtimony taken before a ſeſſion, and ſent up to the Preſbytery, under the ſignature of the Moderator and Clerk, will not be ſufficient in references as well as appeals, to render the caſe, thus referred, both orderly and cognizable by the Preſbytery," was anſwered in the affirmative.

Dr. Smith reported a draught of an Act with regard to the qualifications, ordination, and duty of Elders. And it was agreed, that the ſubject thereof be recommended to the attention of the next General Aſſembly.

Reſolved, That the next General Aſſembly meet in the third Preſbyterian church, in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Tueſday of May, 1798, at 11 O'clock in the forenoon.

Concluded with prayer.

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

MAY 17th, 1798.

PHILADELPHIA:

RE-PRINTED BY JANE AITKEN, NO. 20, NORTH THIRD STREET.

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1803.

ORDERED—That Dr. Tennent, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Clark be a committee to superintend the printing and transmitting of the minutes of the General Assembly.

Extract from the minutes of the General Assembly, at Philadelphia, May 1798.

A C T S, &c.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America met, according to appointment, in the city of Philadelphia, in the third Presbyterian Church, and was opened with a sermon by the Revd. Dr. Tennent, the last year's moderator, from Matthew xxviii. 20. last clause; "*And lo! I am with you "always even unto the end of the world, Amen!*"

After prayer, the commissioners produced their commissions, which were read in the Assembly agreeably to the constitution, and it appeared, that the following members were duly appointed, viz. From the Presbytery of *Albany*, Dr. John B. Smith, Mr. Gershom Williams, ministers—Mr. Moses Holmes, Jacob D. Venderhyden, elders. *Hudson* Presbytery; Mr. N. Ker, Jonathan Freeman, ministers—Mr. William Faulkner, Dr. J. Sweezy, elders. *Long Island* Presbytery, Mr. Isaac Reeves, elder. *New York* Presbytery, Dr. John Rodgers, Dr. Alexander M'Whorter, Mr. Azel Roe, and A. Condict, ministers. Mr. David Little and Jonathan Baldwin, elders. *New-Brunswick*, Mr. James F.

Armstrong, Joseph Clark and Andrew Hunter, ministers—Mr. Benjamin Smith, Nehemiah Dunham and John Bayard, elders. *Philadelphia* Presbytery, Dr. S. Blair, Dr. William M Tennent, Mr. Nathaniel Irwin, ministers—Mr. John Mann, Benjamin Snodgrass and Hugh M'Culloch, elders. *New-Castle* Presbytery, Mr. James Latta, John M'Creary and Francis A. Latta, ministers—Mr. Andrew Gibson and James Porter, elders. Presbytery of *Carlisle*, Dr. John King, Mr. D. Denny, Samuel Wilson, ministers—Presbytery of *Baltimore*, Dr. Patrick Allison, Dr. J. Muir, ministers ; J. Orme Elder. Presbytery of *Lewis*, Mr. J. Johnson, minister—Presbytery of *Redstone*, Mr. David Smith, minister—Presbytery of *Ohio*, Mr. John Bryce, and Boyd Mercer, ministers—Mr. Nathaniel Coleman, elder—Presbytery of *Huntington*, Mr. Asa Dunham, minister ; Presbytery of *Abingdon*, Mr. Samuel Doak, minister ; Presbytery of *Union*, Mr. Hazekiah Balsh, Presbytery of *Concord*, Mr. James Hall, minister ; Presbytery of *South-Carolina*, Mr. William Williamson, minister ; Presbytery of *Hopewell*, Mr. Moses Waddell, minister. From the Presbyteries of Duchess, Hanover, Lexington, Transylvania and Orange, there were no commissioners. The Revd. Timothy Langdon appeared in the Assembly, and presented testimonials of his appointment by the General Association of the state of Connecticut, to represent that body in this Assembly, and took his seat accordingly.

The last delegates from the Assembly to the general Association of Connecticut, in June last, made the following report. That they all attended, during the whole of the sessions of the Association, and were treated with great cordiality and respect, by the members of that body. The greater part of the business, which came before them, respected the internal arrangements of the churches under the care of the general Association in that state. Some of their transactions were of a more

general nature. An address to the particular Associations upon the subject of the establishment of a Missionary society in the state of Connecticut, was agreed to, and ordered to be published, together with such extracts and summaries from existing publications as might be sufficient to give a general view of the measures adopted in Britain and America for the spread of the gospel in heathen countries; and a committee was appointed to correspond with such societies in Europe and America. A committee was appointed to revise Dr. Watts's translation of the psalms of David, to alter all passages confined in expression to particular places or countries, and to translate the psalms which Dr. Watts left untranslated.

Six missionaries to the new settlements for the year, to spend four months each. The next general association is to meet at the house of the Reverend Mr. Basset of Hebron, on the 3d Tuesday in June 1798, at 11 o'clock A. M.

JAMES F. ARMSTRONG.
SAMUEL MILLER.

The General Assembly ordered that the following Regulations made by the late Synod of New-York and Philadelphia be published for the information of the Churches.

THE Synod judge that any student in divinity who professes a design to enter into the ministry, has a right in our present situation, to study for his improvement under the direction of any divine of reputation in the synod according to a former act—But that when he proposes to enter upon trials with a view to the minsitry, he shall come under the care of that Presbytery to which he most naturally belongs. And he shall be deemed most naturally to belong to that Presbytery in whose bounds he has been brought up, and lived, for the most part; and where he is best known. But if

another Presbytery desire that any student or students should come into their bounds; or if any such student or students, for greater conveniency, or from any circumstances that make it necessary, desire to enter upon trials in a different Presbytery; upon his offering satisfactory reasons, he may be dismissed—But in either case, the Presbytery to which he removes shall not receive, nor admit him to come under trials upon his having a certificate as a regular church member only; but he shall bring a testimonial from the Presbytery; or several neighbouring ministers where he lived; recommending him as a candidate for the ministry of exemplary piety, and holiness of conversation; nor shall any thing less be esteemed a sufficient recommendation.

The Synod, considering the education of youth, and their being early instructed in just principles of religion, as one of the most useful means of promoting the influence of the Gospel in our churches: Resolved, That it be enjoined on every Presbytery, in appointing supplies to their vacant congregations, to take order that every vacant congregation within their limits be carefully catechized, at least, once in the year, in the same manner as is required by the order of our church, in congregations supplied with regular pastors. And that the ministers appointed to this duty, be required, at the next meeting of Presbytery, to render an account of their fidelity in this respect. And that the Presbyteries be required to render an account of their attention to this order.

It shall be deemed irregular for any Presbytery to appoint supplies within the bounds of another, without their concurrence; or for any minister to officiate in another's congregation, without asking and obtaining his consent, or the session's, in case the minister be absent; yet it shall be esteemed unbrotherly for any one

in ordinary circumstances, to refuse his consent to a regular member, when required.

The following regulations intended to embrace and extend the existing rules, respecting the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates, was adopted by the General Assemby, and directed to be published for the information of all concerned.

When any minister or licentiate from Europe, shall come into this country, and desire to become connected with the Presbyterian Church in the United States, he may apply in the first instance, to any committee appointed to direct the services of travelling ministers and candidates; which committee, shall examine his credentials, and take such other means, to ascertain his principles, character and standing, as to them shall seem proper. If the result shall be such, as to encourage further trial, they may give him appointments to supply till the next meeting of the presbytery to which such committee belong. It shall then become the duty of such minister or licentiate, to apply to that presbytery, or to any other in whose bounds he may incline to labour. This presbytery shall carefully inspect his credentials, and not sustain a mere certificate of good standing, unless corroborated by such private letters, or other collateral testimony, as shall fully satisfy them, as to the sufficiency of his testimonials. In that event they shall proceed to examine him on the learned languages the arts and sciencies, on theology and church history; and to consider such written evidences of his learned education as he may produce; nor shall they receive him, unless he shall appear to have made such attainments in these several branches, as are required of those who receive their education, or pass their trials among ourselves. If the presbytery shall receive satisfaction on the above particulars (but not otherwise) they shall proceed to examine him as to his experimental acquaint-

ance with religion, soundness in the faith, and capacity for resolving cases of conscience. If upon the whole, he appears to be a person worthy of encouragement, and who promises usefulness in the church, they shall receive him as a minister or candidate *on probation*, in which state, he may preach the gospel where regularly called, either as a stated or occasional supply; and, if an ordained minister, perform every part of the ministerial functions, except that he may not vote in any judicatory, receive, or accept a call for settlement.

When he shall have resided generally, and preached within the bounds, and under the direction of said presbytery for at least one year, the presbytery shall review his case; and having caused him to preach before them (if they judge it expedient) on a subject previously appointed by the presbytery; and having examined him as to his knowledge and approbation of our standards of doctrine, discipline and government; they shall take into consideration, as well the evidence derived from these and former trials before them, as that which may arise from his acceptance in the churches; his prudence, gravity, and godly conversation; and from the combined influence of the whole, determine, either to receive him, to reject him, or to hold him under further probation. In case of receiving him at that or any subsequent period, the presbytery shall report the same to their synod, at its next meeting; together with all the certificates, and other testimony, on which they received him? or if it shall be more convenient, this report may be made to the General Assembly.

The Assembly or Synod, (as the case may be) shall then enquire into the proceedings of the presbytery in the affair; and if they find them to have been irregular or deficient, they shall (after a suitable censure of said presbytery) recommit the cause to them, in order to a more regular and perfect process. But if the proceedings had in the presbytery appear to have been conformable to

this regulation, they shall carefully examine all the papers laid before them by the presbytery; or which shall be exhibited by the party concerned; and considering their credibility and sufficiency, come to a final judgment, either to receive him into the presbyterian body, agreeably to his standing, or to reject him.

No such minister or licentiate, after being rejected by one presbytery, shall be received by another; or if received, through mistake or otherwise, shall no longer be countenanced or employed, after the imposition is discovered.

If however, any such minister or licentiate, shall think himself aggrieved by the sentence of any presbytery, he shall have a right to carry the matter, by complaint, to the proper synod, or to the next General Assembly, giving notice thereof to the presbytery, directing the sessions, at which the sentence was pronounced. Provided, that if any European minister, shall be of such distinguished reputation, as to induce any congregation under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly, to call him (while yet in his own country) to become their Pastor; or the corporation of any university, college or academy, to invite him to become an academical teacher or governor; such minister, on accepting said call or invitation, and coming to this country, may be received by any presbytery, synod or General Assembly, without passing the examination or period of probation herein before mentioned, if his testimonials shall appear sufficient. In all other cases, it shall be deemed irregular, for any synod or General Assembly, to receive a foreign minister or licentiate, until he shall have been examined and approved by some presbytery, in manner aforesaid.

Resolved that supplies be appointed to the pulpits of the delegates who are appointed to attend the General

Association of Connecticut—That doctor Tennent supply Mr. Irwin's pulpit on the third, and Mr. James Boyd supply on the fourth sabbath of June, and that Mr. Rhue supply Mr. Boyd's pulpit in his absence.

That doctor Samuel S. Smith supply Mr. Clark's pulpit, on the third, and Mr. Cook on the fourth sabbath of June.

The committee on missions brought in their report, which was read, approved, and is as follows.—That missions ought to be conducted by men of ability, piety, zeal, prudence and popular talents. That missionaries should be employed in preaching the most important doctrines of the gospel, commonly called the doctrines of grace, during the short period which they can afford to stay in a particular place. That they organize churches, when opportunity offers, and administer ordinances—and that they catechize and instruct, from house to house, as far as practicable, when they remain for a length of time in any settlement—that they refrain from all political or party discussions of any kind, and with the self denial of their master, be wholly devoted to their ministry, and exemplary in their conversation. That in keeping their journals, they distinctly record the subjects on which they preach, and the apparent effect upon their hearers. That the present year, the Revd. John Close, the Revd. Asa Hillyer, and the Revd. Asa Dunham, and Messrs. John Slemons and John Patterson, licentiates of New-Castle Presbytery, be the missionaries. That Mr. Close be employed for three months; to set out about the middle of June; that he proceed through the counties of Otsego, Herkemer, Onondaga, and Tioga, in the state of New-York.—That Mr. Hillyer set out, about the first of June, and proceed through the great bend of Susquehanna, Tioga point, the towns of Milton, Geneva, Aurora, Homer, Manlius, Solon, Pompey, Cassinovia, and the settlements in their vicinity, and be employed two months—That Mr. Dunham set out, about the middle of June,

and proceed through the counties of Northumberland and Luzerne, and the settlements adjacent to Lake Erie, in Pennsylvania, avoiding, as much as possible, the usual course of the persons appointed to supply by the Presbytery of Huntington—And also the counties of Delaware, Tioga and Onondaga in the state of New-York, and be employed six months—That Messrs. Slemons and Patterson set out about the beginning of of August, the former to proceed through the course prescribed to Mr. Close and Mr. Hillyer—The latter to proceed on the route prescribed to Mr. Dunham, and continue each three months.

Your committee further recommend that regular commissions be furnished to the respective missionaries, signed by the moderator, and stated clerk, prescribing in the draught of the commission, the routes which they are to observe. And that they account with the Assembly for any contributions which they may receive on their mission.

On motion, resolved, that the moderator with Mr. Clark, Mr. Ker and Mr. James Boyd be a committee, to enquire into the religious state of our western extensive frontiers; and whether any, and what alterations may, with probable advantage, be made in our present plan of managing the missions in those parts; and make their report on these subjects to the next General Assembly.

A pastoral letter from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, in the United States of America, to the people in their communion.

Dear friends and brethren,

The aspect of divine providence, and the extraordinary situation of the world, at the present moment, indicate, that a solemn admonition, by the ministers of

religion and other church-officers in General Assembly convened, has become our indispensable duty. When formidable innovations and convulsions in Europe threaten destruction to morals and religion; when scenes of devestation and bloodshed, unexampled in the history of modern nations, have convulsed the world; and when our own country is threatened with similar calamities, insensibility in us would be stupidity; silence would be criminal. The watchmen on Zion's walls are bound by their commission to sound a general alarm, at the approach of danger. We therefore desire to direct your awakened attention, towards that bursting storm, which threatens to sweep before it the religious principles, institutions, and morals of our people.—We are filled with a deep concern and an awful dread, whilst we announce it as our real conviction, that the eternal God has a controversy with our nation, and is about to visit us in his sore displeasure. A solemn crisis has arrived, in which we are called to the most serious contemplation of the moral causes, which have produced it, and the measures which it becomes us to pursue.

With regard to the causes of those national calamities, which we either feel or fear, a little reflection may convince us, that these may be traced to a general defection from God and corruption of the public principles and morals. These usually keep an equal pace, and they uniformly precede the ruin of nations.

The evidences of our guilt are, unhappily, too numerous and glaring. We perceive, with pain and fearful apprehension, a general dereliction of religious principle and practice amongst our fellow-citizens—A great departure from the faith and simple purity of manners for which our fathers were remarkable—A visible and prevailing impiety, and contempt for the laws and institutions of religion, and an abounding infidelity which in many instances, tends to Atheism itself; which con-

temptuously rejects God's eternal son, our saviour; ridicules the gospel and its most sacred mysteries; denies the providence of God, grieves and insults the holy spirit; in a word, which assumes a front of daring impiety and possesses a mouth filled with blasphemy.

In the midst of the alarming situation of the public mind, which we have noticed above, we perceive a degree of supineness and inattention amongst too many of the ministers and professors of christianity which seems to threaten a dissolution of religious society. Formality and deadness, not to say hypocrisy; a contempt for vital godliness, and the spirit of fervent piety; a desertion of the ordinances, or a cold and unprofitable attendance upon them, visibly pervade every part of the church, and certain men have crept in amongst us, who have denied, or attempt to explain away, the pure doctrines of the gospel; to introduce pernicious errors which were either not named, or named with abhorrence; but which have within a few years since been embraced by deluded multitudes. The Lord's day is horribly prophaned, and family religion and instruction lamentably neglected.

Our ingratitude to God enhances our dreadful guilt. No people have been more highly favoured in our original establishment, our increasing prosperity, and particularly in our contest during the revolutionary war, and its prosperous issue; but alas! we have basely forgotten our benefactor—We have abused his favours and turned them into engines of opposition against himself—"He has nourished and brought us up as children and we have rebelled against him."

The profligacy and corruption of the public morals have advanced with a progress proportioned to our declension in religion—Profaneness, pride, luxury, injustice, intemperance, lewdness, and every species of debauchery and loose indulgence greatly abound. And "shall not the Lord visit for these things? shall not

his soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Are not our crimes enormous, as they are numerous? Are they not peculiarly aggravated? Have we not known our Master's will, and refused, or at least neglected to do it? Have we not possessed uncommon means of information, with regard to our duty, without a proportionate improvement?—And have not our uncommon advantages been abused without shame or remorse? As surely as there is a righteous God, so surely will he visit us in his just displeasure, unless his grace prevent, by awakening us to a sense of our guilt and recalling us to the practice of our duty—Our circumstances loudly demand a public and solemn acknowledgment of God as our moral governor and righteous judge. It is time to cease from man, whose breath is in his nostrils; to look beyond second causes, and openly confess the hand and agency and government of God in the world. Let Christians unite more cordially, and openly, in adhering to their Master's cause, and opposing infidelity in all its forms. God hath a controversy with us! Let us prostrate ourselves before him! Let the deepest humiliation and the sincerest repentance mark our sense of the national sins; and let us not forget, at the same time the personal sins of each individual, that have contributed to encrease the mighty mass of corruption! Let the ministers of religion weep and intercede for themselves and a guilty people! Let all descriptions of persons lament their iniquities and reform! Let us practice all righteousness! Let us be earnest and fervent in prayer, that God, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, would pour out his gracious spirit upon ministers and people; and that he would revive his work not only amongst our churches; but amongst all denominations of christians, until the blessed promises and predictions, with regard to the extent of the Redeemer's kingdom, be completely fulfilled! Let us conduct ourselves as quiet

and peaceable citizens, submitting conscientiously to the laws of our own making and the government of our own choice! Let us treat with candor and respect our civil rulers! Let us reflect that the scripture-precepts upon this subject are applicable to no people, if not to us, under a representative government; yet as in the present imperfect state of human nature, differences in opinion must exist, let us carefully cultivate the sentiments of brotherly kindness, mutual forbearance and charity.

With a view to give the greater effect to the admonitions and exhortations in this letter expressed, we recommend, that the last Thursday of August next, be observed in all the congregations, under our care, as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer, and that the ministers of our communion do then read this letter to the people of their charge, and enforce the truth it contains in such discourses founded on the word of God, as shall appear best adapted to effect so desirable a purpose.

The committee appointed to take into consideration a letter and certain communications from a society established in Philadelphia to aid the civil magistrate in the suppression of vice and immorality, REPORT:

That the designs of the society aforesaid appear to be in the highest degree laudable, and to deserve the approbation and imitation of the friends of religion and good morals in every part of the country, especially at the present period of abounding immorality and profaneness; and the committee do accordingly recommend that the Assembly express it as their desire that the members of our communion countenance and aid the institution of similar societies in every place where such establishments may be attempted or appear expedient.

The Assembly agreed to the above report.

Adjourned to meet in the Presbyterian Church in Winchester, in Virginia, on the third Thursday of May 1799, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

JOHN B. SMITH, *Moderator.*

A

LIST

OF THE

Synods, Preſbyteries, Licentiates, and Congregations,

Within the bounds of the General Aſſembly, of the Preſbyterian Church in the United States of America, in the year 1798.

I. Synod of New-York and New-Jerſey.

1ſt. The Preſbtery of Dutcheſs.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*
Revd. Solomon Mead,	Salem.
Nathan Ker,	Goſhen.
John Cloſe,	
John Minor,	Union.
Andrew King,	Wall-Kill.
John Joline	Florida and Warwick.
Jonathan Freeman,	Hopewell and Deer Park.
Methuſelah Baldwin,	Pleaſant Valley.
	Vacant.
	Bedford and Franklin.
	New-Burgh.
	New-Windſor.
	Bethlehem.
	Fiſhkill.
	Poundridge.

2d. Preſbytery of Long-Iſland.

Revd. Samuel Buel, D. D.	Eaſt-Hampton.
Benjamin Goldſmith,	Aquabogue and Mattituck.
William Schenk,	Huntington.

Ministers.	*Congregations.*
Revd. David Roſe,	South-Haven.
George Faitoute,	Jamaica.
Nathan Woodhull,	Newtown.
Luther Gleſon,	Smithtown and Iſlip.
Zachariah Green,	Brook-Haven.
Aaron Woolworth,	Bridge-Hampton.
Herman Daggett,	West-Hampton.
Daniel Hall,	Sag-Harbour.
Joſeph Hazard,	South-Old.
Joſhua Hart, Wait Cornwall, Jacob Cramn,	Without charges.
	Vacant.
	South-Hampton.
	Freſh Ponds.
	Hempſted.

3d. Preſbytery of New-York.

Revd. John Rodgers, D. D.	New-York.
Jonathan Elmer,	Without a charge.
Benjamin Woodruff,	Westfield.
Alex. M'Whorter, D. D.	New-Ark.
Azel Roe,	Woodbridge.
Jedidiah Chapman,	Orange-Dale.
Jacob Van Arſden,	Springfield.
John M'Knight, D. D.	New-York.
Lemuel Fordham,	Roxbury and Succaſunny
Peter Fiſh,	Connecticut Farms.
Aſa Hillyer,	South Hanover.
Aaron Condict,	Hanover.
John J. Carle,	Rockaway.
Samuel Miller,	New-York.
Henry Cook,	2d church in Woodbridge.
James Richards,	Morris-Town.
Amzi Armſtrong,	Mendham.
James G. Force,	New-Providence.
Robert Hett Chapman,	Rahway.
	Vacant.
	Elizabeth-Town.
	Bloom-Field.
	New-Hempſted.
	Haverſtraw.

Ministers.	*Congregations.*
Revd. John Hanna,	King-Wood and Bethlehem.
John Woodhull,	Freehold.
Saml. S. Smith, D. D.	President of the College of New-Jersey.
James F. Armstrong,	Trenton and Maidenhead.
Andrew Hunter,	Without a charge.
William Boyd,	Bedminster.
Peter Wilson,	Without a charge.
Joseph Rue,	Pennington.
Joseph Clark,	New-Brunswick.
Walter Monteeth, Asa Dunham,	Without charges.
Thomas Grant,	Amwell and Flemington.
Cyrus Gilderfleeves,	Medway in the state of Georgia.
David Barclay,	Boundbrook.
Robert Finley,	Baskingridge.
Holloway W. Hunt,	Newton and Hardiston
Samuel F. Snowden,	Princeton.
	Vacant.
	Cranbury.
	Kingston.
	Assynpinck.
	Allentown.
	Nottingham.
	Shrewsbury.
	Shark-river.
	Middletown-Point.
	Hardwick.
	Shappenoch.
	Greenwich.
	Mansfield.
	Oxford.
	Mount-Bethel.
	Independence.
	Knowlton.
	Millstone.

Licentiates.

Joseph Caldwell.
George Scott,
Samuel Sloan.

Ministers.	Congregations.
Revd. Alexander Miller,	Without a charge.
John Warford,	Salem.
John B. Smith, D. D.	President of Union college.
Benjamin Judd,	Without a charge,
John Lindsley,	Kingsborough,
Simon Hosack,	Johnstown,
William B. Ripley,	Without a charge,
Jonas Coe,	Lansingburgh and Troy,
Samuel Sturges,	Without a charge,
Gershom Williams,	Cambridge.
Bethuel Dood,	Whites-Town,
Robert Smith,	Schenectady,
Frederick Halsey,	Plattsburgh,
	Vacant,
	Albany,
	Hebron,
	Still-Water,
	Galloway,
	Ballstown,
	East-Ballstown.
	New-Scotland.
	Cherry-Valley.
	Charles-Town
	Milton.
	Coopertown.
	Stephentown.
	Schootack.
	Littlefalls.
	Waterford.
	Providence.
	Breadalbane.
	Kingsbury.

Licentiates.

William Scott.
Eliphalet Nott.

II. Synod of Philadelphia.

1st. Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Rev. John Ewing. D. D.	1st. Presbyterian church Phil.
Samuel Blair, D. D.	Without a charge.
James Boyd,	Newtown and Bensalem.
Wm. M. Tennent, D. D.	Abington, Norriton, & N. Provi.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*
Revd. Nathaniel Irwin,	Forks of Neſhaminey.
John Davenport,	Deerfield.
Aſhbel Green, D. D.	2d Preſbyterian church Phila.
Ethan Oſborne,	Fairfield.
John Gemmil,	Great Valley and Charlestown.
Samuel Leacock,	Pitts Grove.
Abijah Davis,	Cape May.
William Clarkſon,	Greenwich and Bridgetown.
Nathaniel Harris,	Penn's Neck & Alloway's creek
Robert Ruſſel,	Allen's Townſhip.
	Vacant.
	3d Preſbyterian church Phila.
	Deep Run.
	Tinnecom.
	Woodbury and Timber creek.

Licentiates.
Uriah Dubois.
Thomas Pickton.

2d. Preſbytery of New-Caſtle.

Revd. William M'Kennon,	Redclay creek.
James Lata,	Cheſnut Level.
Collin M'Farquar,	Donnegal.
Alexander Mitchell,	Without a charge.
John M'Creary,	White Clay creek.
Thomas Reed, D. D.	1ſt Preſby. church St. George's.
Nathaniel W. Sample,	Lancaſter, Leacock and Middle Octorara.
Samuel Baar,	Without a charge.
Nathan Grier,	Forks of Brandywine.
William Arthur,	Pequa.
Francis Hindman,	Without a charge.
William Cheally,	Penn Cader and Middleton.
Francis A. Latta,	1ſt Preſby. church Wilmington.
	Vacant.
	New-Caſtle & Chriſtiana bridge
	2d Preſby. church Wilmington.
Licentiates.	New-London.
Patrick Davidſon,	Foggs Manor.
David M'Cannaughy,	Eaſt Nottingham.
James Laird,	Weſt-Nottingham.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*
Licentiates.	*Vacant.*
John Patterſon,	Upper Octorara.
John Slemmons,	Doe-Run.
William Stewart,	George-Town.
	Middleton.

3d. Preſbytery of Baltimore.

Revd. Patrick Alliſon, D. D.	Baltimore.
James Muir, D. D.	Alexandria.
George Lucky,	Centre & Bethel.
Stephen B. Balch,	George-Town.
Enock Mattſon,	Bermuda.
Samuel Martin,	Slateridge.
John Brackenridge,	Washington.
Adam Freeman,	Seneca, capt. John & Difficult.
Samuel Knox,	Frederick.
John Slemmons,	Without charges.
James Wilſon,	
Caleb Johnſon,	
Andrew Law,	
Cunningham Sample	
William Allen,	
	Vacant.
	Chanceford,
	Deer-Creek.
Licentiates.	Soldier's Delight.
William Maffet,	Bladenburg.
Candidates.	
Andrew Gibſon,	

4th Preſbytery of Carliſle.

Revd. Charles Neſbit, D. D.	Preſident of Dickinſon college.
Robert Cooper, D. D.	Without a charge.
James Lang,	Eaſt Connecocheague.
John King, D. D.	Weſt Connecocheague.
John Craighead,	Rocky Spring.
Thomas M'Phenin,	Lower eaſt & lower weſt Connecocheague.
Robert Davidſon D. D.	Carliſle.
John Black,	Without a charge.
Daniel Jones,	
John Linn,	Sherman's Valley.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*
Revd. Samuel Waugh,	Eaſt Pennſborough, Monaghan
Samuel Wilſon,	Big Spring.
James Snodgraſs,	Hanover.
William Paxton,	Lower Marſh creek.
Robert Cathcart,	York & Hopewell.
Nathaniel Snowden,	Harrisburgh.
David Denny,	Path Valley.
John Boyd,	Tuſcorora & Falling-waters.
John Arnold,	Without a charge.
	Vacant.
Licentiates.	Chambersburg.
James M'Lane,	Middle Spring.
Francis Laird,	Paxton.
Francis Heron,	Derry.
Joſhua Laird,	Great Canawago.
	Upper Marſh creek.
	Tom's Creek.
	Piney Creek.
	Williamsport.
	Great cove.
	Hancock town.
	Bedford.
	Mouth of Juniata.

5th. Preſbytery of Lewis.

Revd. Samuel M'Maſters,	Snow-hill and Pitt's creek.
John Burton,	Lewis, Cool-ſpring, & In river.
William M'Kee,	Without a charge.
John Johnſon,	Murderkill and three runs.
	Vacant.
	Black-Water.
	Buckingham.
	Rockawaukin.
	Monokin.
	Broad creek.
	Dover.
	Duck Creek.
	Queen Ann's.
	St. John's.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*
Revd. John Hoge,	Without a charge.
Hugh M'Gill,	Cedar Spring.
David Bard,	Frankſtown.
Matthew Stephens,	Upper and centre Waynetown
James Johnſon,	Eaſt and weſt Kiſhiquoquilas.
John Johnſon,	Huntingdon and Hartflog.
Hugh Morriſon,	Northumberland, Sunbury and Buffaloe.
John Bryſon,	Chiliſquaque & Warrior's run.
David Wiley,	Cedar creek and Spring creek.
Iſaac Crier,	Pine creek, Lycoming,& Great Iſland.
Aſa Dunham,	Without a charge.
Licentiates.	Vacancies in this Presbytery
Samuel Bryſon,	were not reported.

3d. Synod of Virginia.

1ſt. Preſbytery of Red Stone.

Revd. James Power,	Mount Pleaſant.
James Dunlap,	Laurel hill.
Jacob Jennings,	Dunlap's creek.
Samuel Porter,	Congruity.
John M'Pherrin,	Salem and Unity.
George Hill,	Leagonier Valley.
William Swan,	Long-Run and Sewickly.
David Smith,	Rehobuth and Round-hill.
Licentiates.	*Vacant.*
James Adams,	Pitt's Townſhip.
Candidates.	Puckety.
Andrew Guin,	Bethel.
	Ebenezer on Black-lick.
	George's creek.
	Union.
	Morgan-Town.
	Sandy-creek glades.
	Crab Orchard.
	Glade-run.
	Stoney-creek.
	Poke-run.
	Pittsburg.

2d, *Presbytery of Ohio.*

Ministers.	*Congregations.*
Revd. John M'Millan,	Chartiers.
Joseph Patterson,	Racoon.
James Hughes,	Short creek.
John Brice,	Three Ridges.
Thomas Marquis,	Cross-Creek.
Thomas Moore,	Ten-mile.
Boyd Mercer,	Pidgeon-Creek.
Samuel Ralston,	Mingo-creek.
William Woods,	Bethel.
Candidates.	*Vacant.*
Thomas Hughes,	Washington.
Smilie Hughes,	Buffalo.
John Watson.	New-Salem.
	Unity.
	Mell-creek.
	Kings-creek.

3d, *Presbytery of Hanover.*

Revd. James Waddel, D. D.	Without a charge.
William Irwin,	Without a charge.
James Mitchel,	Peaks, Bethel and Pisgah.
John D. Blair,	Hanover and Richmond.
Archibald M'Roberts,	Without a charge.
Drury Lucy,	Cumberland.
James Turner,	Colleague to M. Mitchel.
Archibald Alexander, Matthew Hyle,	Briery & Cub-creek, colleagues
John Todd,	Providence and Bird.

No return of Licentiates and Candidates, or the number of vacant congregations has been received from this Presbytery.

4th, *Presbytery of Lexington.*

Revd. John Brown,	Providence.
William Graham,	Without a charge.
Archibald Scott,	Bethel & Browns meetinghouse
John Montgomery,	Calf-pasture.
Bnjamin Erwin,	Mog-creek & Looks-creek.
William Wilson,	Augusta.

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*
Revd. John M'Cre,	Tinkling ſpring and Stanton.
Samuel Houſton,	Oxford and falling ſpring.
Benjamin Grigſly,	Green-briar.

5th, Presbytery of Wincheſter.

Revd. Moſes Hodge,	Shepherds town.
Naſh Legrand,	Cedar creek and Opehen.
William Hill,	Bullſkin.
John Lile,	Rumneg and Francfort.
William Williamſon,	Front-royal.

The names and numbers of Licentiates, Candidates and vacancies in Lexington and Wincheſter Presbyteries, have not been returned.

4th Synod of the Carolinas.

1ſt, Presbytery of Orange.

Revd. Henry Pattillo,	Graſſy creek and Nutbuſh.
David Caldwell,	Baffaloe and Alamance.
William Moore,	Middle, lower and upper Hico.
William Hodge,	Hawfields.
Angus M'Dermot,	Bluff, Barbacue and M'Cay's.
Samuel Stanford,	Black river chapel.
Colin Lindſay,	Raft ſwamp,
James Robinſon,	Goſhen and the Grove.
James Bowman,	Little river and E. and O.

No return of Licentiates or Vacancies.

2d, Presbytery of South Carolina.

Revd. Joſeph Alexander,	Bullock's creek.
John Simpſon,	Two charges.
James Templeton,	Nazareth and Fair view.
Francis Cummins,	Rocky river.
Robert M'Cullough,	Catholic and Purity.
John Brown,	Waxhaws.
Robert Wilſon,	Longcane and Grenville.
William Williamſon,	Fair-foreſt.
Robert B. Walker,	Bethefda.
David Dunlap,	Columbia.

Miniſters.	*Congregations*
Revd. Samuel Yongue,	Lebanon.
John Foſter,	Salem.
James Stephenſon,	Indian town and Williamsburg
John B. Kennedy,	Duncan's creek and Little river
James Gilliland,	Broadaway.
George G. M'Whorter,	Bethel and Beerſheba.
Candidates.	*Vacant.*
George Reid, Hugh Dixon,	Jame's Iſland, John's Iſland, Wadmelar, Ebenezar, Lower fiſhing creek, Carmel, Dorcheſter, Beaver-creek, Hanging-rock, Liberty ſpring, Concord.

3*d*, *Presbytery of Abingdon.*

Revd. Charles Cummins,	Without a charge,
Edward Crawford,	Suſpended.
Samuel Doake,	Salem.
Jacob Lake,	

4*th*, *Presbytery of Concord.*

Revd. Samuel M'Corkle, D.D.	Thyatira.
James Hall,	Bethany.
James M'Ree,	Without a charge.
David Barr,	Philadelphia.
James Wallis,	New-Providence.
Samuel C. Caldwell,	Suggaw-creek and Hopewell.
Joſeph Kilpatrick,	Third creek and Unity.
Lewis F. Wilſon,	Concord and Fourth creek.
William C. Davis,	Olney.
Humphrey Hunter,	Goſhen and Unity.
Alexander Caldwell,	Without a charge.
John M. Wilſon,	Quaker meadows, Morgantown
John Carragan,	Ramah and Bethphagi.
John Andrews,	Little Britain.
Licentiates.	*Vacant.*
James Gillespie, James Adams, Samuel Davis, George Newton, Thomas Price,	Centre—Jerſey ſettlement. Joppa—Mineral Spring. Cheſnut ſpring. Swananoa. Mamre.
Candidate.	
George Means.	

Miniſters.	*Congregations.*
Revd. John Springer,	Smyrna, Liberty & Providence.
Robert M. Cunningham	Bethany and Ebenezer.
Moſes Waddle,	Carmel and Joppa.
William Montgomery,	New-Hope.
Licentiate.	*Vacant.*
Thomas Newton,	Hebron—Bethſaida.
	Siloam—Richland-creek.
	Sparta—Sharon.

6th, Presbytery of Union.

Revd. Hezekiah Balch,	Preſident of Greenville college
John Coſſon,	Without a charge.
Samuel Carrick,	Knoxville.
Robert Henderſon,	Hopewell.
Gideon Blackburn,	Little river.
Samuel Ramſay,	Graſſey valley.

Licentiates, Candidates and vacant congregations, have not been returned from this Presbytery.

7th, Presbytery of Tranſylvania.

Revd. David Rice,
Thomas Craighead.
Adam Rankin.
Andrew M'Clure.
James Crawford.

Since the last publication the following Sums have been received from the following Churches.

Philadelphia Preſbytery.						
1ſt. Preſbyterian church,	£.	16	17	6		
Ditto.		9	18	8		
2d. Ditto.		1	4	9		
Ditto.		28	10			
Ditto.		12	15	5		
3d. Ditto.		12				
Deerfield,		1	5			
Ditto.		1	11			
Ditto.			14			
New town,		2	5			
Ditto.		2				
Cape May,			15			
Neſhaminy,		1	10			
Ditto.		1	10			
Abington,		3	15			
Ditto.		1	13	9		
Norrington and New-Providence,		2	5			
Allenſtown,			16			
Great Valley and Charleſtown,		1	19			
Greenwich,		1				
Bridgetown,		2	10			
Pittſgrove,		2	17	2		
					109	12 10
Albany Preſbytery,	£.	9	7	6		
Ditto.		12	10			
Ditto.		7	10			
					29	6
Carliſle Preſbytery.						
Carliſle church,	£.	9				
Ditto.		4	10			
Big Spring,		1	10			
Preſbytery, ſundry churches not mentioned,		9	16	9		
Hanover,		1	2	6		
Eaſt Connewago,		1	10			
L. Weſt, Do.		1	2	6		
Falling ſpring,		1	10			
Lower March creek,		2	2	2		
					32	3 11
Amount carried forward,					171	4 3

Amount brought forward,					171	4 3
Carliſle Presbytery Continued.						
Tuſcorora and Martinſburg,		£. 2	4			
Falling Waters,		1	12	5		
York town and Hopewell,		4	10			
Upper Weſt Connecocheague,		3				
Eaſt Pennſborough and Menaghan,		1	2	6		
Great Connewago,		1	17	6		
Sheerman's Valley,		1	2	6		
					15	8 11
Long-Iſland Presbytery.						
Sundry churches not mentioned,		16	10	9		
Bridge Hampton,	1 6 6					
Ditto.	2 16					
Huntington,	3 17 6	7	10			
	8 0 0				24	0 9
New-Brunſwick Presbytery.						
Mount Bethel,		£. 2				
Oxford,		1	2	6		
New-Brunſwick,		6				
Ditto.		6				
Trenton,		3				
Ditto.		3				
Newtown and Hardiſtown,		2	16	3		
Kingwood,		3				
Bound Brook,		2				
Ditto.		2				
Bethlehem,		1	3	6		
Baſkenridge,		3				
Freehold,		7	10			
Ditto.		6				
Princeton,		6	12			
Ditto.		11	5			
Ditto.		6				
Ditto.		4				
		76	9	5		
Amount carried forward,					210	13 11

Amount brought forward,				210	13	11
New-Brunſwick, brought forward,	£. 76	9	5			
Flemingtown,	1	10				
Ditto.	1	10				
Amwell,	3	16	8			
Ditto.	4	10				
Kingſtown,	1	15	4			
Pennington,	3	15				
Cranberry,	6	6	5			
Millſtone,	1	10				
				101	2	10
Hudſon Preſbytery.						
Goſham church,	6	13	6			
Florida,	1	17	3			
Salem,		11	4			
Union,		15	8			
Hopewell,	2	2	7			
Pleaſant Valley,	3					
Newbery,	1	17	8			
				15	16	10½
York currency	16	18	0			
New-York Presbytery.						
United Churches in New-York,	32	3	3			
Ditto.	35	14	8			
Newark,	4	13	9			
Orangdale church,	1	5				
Preſbytery,	4	13	9			
Ditto.	15	18	9			
Ditto.	21	11	3			
Ditto.	9	7	6			
				125	7	11
Baltimore Presbytery.						
Chanceford,	1	2	8			
Centre and Bethel,	1	2	6			
Slate Ridge,	2	17				
Captain John,	4	4	1			
Baltimore city,	25					
Ditto.	33	15				
				68	1	3½
Huntington Preſbytery,				3	15	
Amount carried forward,				524	17	10

Amount brought forward, £.	524	17	10
Received from Mr. Thatcher, Miſſionary money he received, - - - -	34	9	6
Received from Dr. Rodgers for firſt impreſſion of Confeſſions, - £. 23 1 3	36	11	3
Receiv. from Mr. Armſtrong for Do. 13 10			
Received of ſundries for 2d. Do.	281	8	9
Balance in the hands of treaſurer at ſettlement made with him on the 24th May 1796.	276	17	10
£.	1154	5	3

Diſburſements.

Caſh paid to Miſſionaries. - -	248	1	
Do. paid on account of the Confeſſions,	579	7	
Do. paid ſundry incidental expences,	80	8	8
Balance remaining in the treaſury per ſettlement by committee of Aſſembly, May 23d, 1798. - - -	246	18	7
£.	1154	15	3

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES

OF

AMERICA,

MAY 16th, 1799.

PHILADELPHIA:

RE-PRINTED BY JANE AITKEN, NO. 20, NORTH THIRD STREET.

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1803.

Dr. John B. Smith, Dr. Green, and Mr. John M'Culloch were appointed a committee to superintend the printing and transmitting of the minutes of the General Assembly.

Extract from the minutes of the General Assembly, at Winchester, Virginia, May 16, 1799.

ACTS, &c.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the United States of America, met at Winchester in Virginia, agreeably to appointment, and Dr. John B. Smith, the moderator of the last Assembly, being absent, was opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. John M'Knight, from 2 Cor. ii. 16. *Who is sufficient for these things?*

After prayer the commissioners produced their commissions, which being read, it appeared that the following persons were duly appointed, members of this Assembly viz:—

From the Presbytery of Albany, Rev. Robert Smith.

From the Presbytery of New York, Dr. John M'Knight, Rev. Asa Hillyer.

From the Presbytery of New-Brunswick, Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith, Rev. Andrew Hunter, Rev. Joseph Clark, Rev. Robert Finley, and Col. John Bayard, Elder.

From the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Rev. Dr. William Tennent Rev. James Boyd, Rev. William Clarkson, and Messrs. Jonathan Elmer, John M'Culloch, and Hugh Henry, Elders.

From the Pyesbytery of New-Castle, Rev. Nathan Grier, Rev. Francis Hindman, and Mr. David Denny, Elder.

From the Presbytery of Baltimore, Rev. Dr. James Muir, Rev. Samuel Knox, and Mr. Richard Orm, Elder.

From the Presbytery of Carlisle, Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper, Rev. Dr. John King, Rev. Nathaniel R. Snowden, and Mr. Moses Collins, Elder.

From the Presbytery of Huntingdon, Rev. Asa Dunham, and Mr. Thomas Morrow, Elder.

From the Presbytery of Red-stone, Rev. William Swan, Rev. John M'Ferrin.

From the Presbytery of Ohio, Rev. John M'Millan, Rev. Thomas Marquis.

From the Presbytery of Hanover, Rev. James Robinson, Rev. Archibald Alexander.

From the Presbytery of Lexington, Rev. William Graham, Rev. Robert Wilson.

From the Preſbytery of Wincheſter, Rev. Moſes Hoge, and Mr. John Kearſly, Elder,

From the Preſbytery of Orange, Rev. John Anderſon.

From the Preſbytery of Concord, Rev. James Wallace.

From the Preſbytery of Waſhington, Rev. Richard M'Namar.

From the Preſbyteries of Long-Iſland, Hudſon, Lewis, South Carolina, Abingdon, Hopewell, Union, and Tranſylvania there were no commiſſioners preſent.

The aſſembly proceeded to the appointment of a Moderator and Clerks. Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, was duly choſen Moderator, and the Rev. Andrew Hunter, and Rev. Robert Finley, clerks.

The committee appointed to meet committees from the Reformed Dutch Church, and the Aſſociate Reformed Churches, made their report which was read, and is as follows:

"The committee appointed to prepare the draught of a plan for correſpondence and intercourſe between the churches under the ſuperintendance of the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian church in the United States of America; the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch church; and the Synod of the Aſſociate Reformed church, beg leave to report,

"That from conſiderations of propriety and expediency it is to be received as the baſis of the plan that the ſeveral eccleſiaſtical bodies or judicatories concerned are to remain and be preſerved entirely ſeparate and independent—That conſiſtently with this fundamental principle the three following kinds or degrees of intercourſe appear to be practicable and ought to be recommended, viz.

"I. The communion of particular churches.

"II. The friendly interchange of miniſterial ſervices.

"III. A correſpondence of the ſeveral judicatories of the conferring churches.

"I. The communion of particular churches.

"Any member, in communion with any church concerned in this conference, may be received to occaſional communion in any other church thus concerned, on producing to the proper church officers to whom application may be made, ſufficient teſtimonials of a good and regular ſtanding in the church with which he is ſtatedly connected; provided, but not otherwiſe, that the church officers to whom this application ſhall be made, ſhall judge that the circumſtances of the church of which they have the over-ſight render it expedient, and for mutual edification, to admit the applicant to occaſional communion with them.

"Perſons under cenſure or proceſs of cenſure in any particular church concerned in this agreement, ſhall not be received to occaſional or ſtated communion in any other church ſo concerned while ſuch cenſure remains, or ſuch proceſs is unfiniſhed.

" But on the other hand, when any member in one of ſaid churches deſires to connect himſelf with another, he ſhall not be refuſed a certificate of his good ſtanding, when ſuch ſtanding is really good, nor ſhall it be eſteemed diſorderly or unkind for the church to which he may preſent ſaid certificate to receive him.

" II. The friendly interchange of miniſterial ſervices.

" It ſhall be permitted to the competent church officers in any congregation ſettled, or vacant, under the care of the conferring judicatories to invite any miniſter who is in good ſtanding with any of ſaid judicatories to preach in the pulpit of ſuch congregations if they ſhall judge it to be expedient. But here as in the former caſe, it ſhall be entirely optional to give or withhold ſuch invitation, nor ſhall it be eſteemed offenſive or unkind if the invitation be forborne,

" In caſes where the people reſiding within the limits ſuitable to a congregation, ſhall be compoſed of members from two or from all of the conferring churches, it ſhall be recommended to the people thus circumſtanced to call and to cauſe to be ſettled among them, a regular licentiate or miniſter in any of ſaid churches as the majority ſhall by vote determine, and that ſuch licentiate, or miniſter when thus ſettled ſhall attach himſelf to the judicatories of that church to which the majority ſo calling him did belong, unleſs ſaid majority ſhall freely conſent that the miniſter called do chooſe the judicatory with which he will be connected, in which caſe the miniſter may without any offence make his choice among the judicatories of any of the churches conferring. And where there are any congregations or bodies of people in ſuch ſituation that they cannot obtain adequate ſupplies of miniſterial ſervice from that particular church to which they or a majority of them belong, it may and ſhall be lawful for them to make regular applications for ſupplies to any of the other judicatories concerned in this conference.

" III. A correſpondence of the ſeveral jucicatories of the conferring churches.

" Any judicatory of the conferring churches, may invite the regular members of any other judicatory concerned in this agreement to ſit as correſponding members whenever it may be judged expedient ſo to do. But here, as in the former caſes, a neglect to invite ſhall not be conſidered as offenſive, in as much as each judicatory muſt always be beſt able to judge whether ſuch a meaſure be expedient.

" It is moreover recommended that delegates be appointed, by the General Aſſembly, by the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch church, and by the Aſſociate Reformed Synod to ſit in theſe judicatories reſpectively, with the privilege of deliberating on all ſubjects that may come before them, and alſo of voting on all queſtions which the members of the judicatory in which they ſit ſhall deem conſtitutional, but without power to vote on any queſtion not of this deſcription, provided nevertheleſs, that the number of ſuch delegates ſhall never exceed three, unleſs by a future agreement this number be increaſed.

" It is further recommended that the churches conferring mutually watch over each other's purity in doctrine, discipline and manners, and be ready to receive complaints against any of their ministers, or members upon these subjects; which complaints may be preferred and prosecuted either by individuals in their own name *cum periculo*, or by a judicatory which shall communicate the necessary information to the judicatory to which the offender is subject, in which latter case it shall be taken up as a *fama clamosa*, and prosecuted by said judicatory, and the whole proceedings thereon shall be transmitted to the informing body for their satisfaction.

" It is understood that certificates or recommendations shall be esteemed authentic and sufficient where they are made agreeably to the rules of that church by which they are granted.

" It is also understood that all congregations in making applications for supplies shall obtain leave for so doing from the judicatory to which they statedly and regularly belong—and that in making application whether for supplies or for the settlement of a minister, they shall conform to the rules of that judicatory to which the application shall be made.

Ordered, That a copy of the proceedings of this convention authenticated by the moderator and clerk be transmitted to each of the supreme judcatories of the churches concerned.

Concluded with prayer.

JOHN RODGERS, *Moderator.*
JOHN M. MASON, *Clerk.*

After mature deliberation, the plan reported by the committee " for correspondence and friendly intercourse between the above mentioned churches" was unanimously approved:

Whereupon, resolved, that this Assembly do appoint three delegates to attend the Synod of the Dutch Reformed church, and three other delegates to attend the General Synod of the Associate Reformed churches, agreeably to what is proposed in the plan above reported; or to meet the committee of those churches, or of either of them in a new convention, Provided that those churches respectively accept and ratify said plan, and also appoint delegates to attend the General Assembly of this church; or provided they, or either of them appoint commissioners to meet in a new Convention. Dr. John M'Knight, Dr. John Woodhull and the Rev. Jonas Coe, were appointed delegates to the Synod of the Reformed Dutch church. Dr John King, Rev Andrew Hunter, and Rev. Joseph Clarke were appointed to meet the General Synod of the Reformed Associate churches—they were ordered to fulfil their respective appointments by meeting the above named synods, at their first sessions, after they shall have regularly given notice to the next General Assembly, or to the moderator of this General Assembly that they have adopted said plan. And in case the synods, or either of them do not adopt the above mentioned plan, but propose a new convention, then the whole number were ordered to attend such convention.

Ordered, that the ſtated clerk tranſmit to the Synod of the Dutch Reformed and Aſſociate Reformed churches a certified copy of this minute.

The delegates to the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, appointed by the laſt General Aſſembly, brought in a report which was read and is as follows:

"To the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian church in the United States of America, to meet at Wincheſter in Virginia, on the third Thurſday of May, 1799.

The ſubſcribers, appointed by the laſt General Aſſembly as delegates to the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, which met at Hebron on the 19th day of June laſt, beg leave to

"REPORT—

"That they all attended until the cloſe of the ſeſſion of the Aſſociation, and were treated with a degree of reſpect and attention, which has made a very deep impreſſion on their minds.

"The General Aſſociation appeared much pleaſed with the connection ſubſiſting between them and the General Aſſembly, and diſpoſed to ſtrengthen the bonds that unite them.

"Your delegates were particularly pleaſed with the appearances of brotherly affection amongſt the clergy of Connecticut, and the decent and cordial regard, with which they treat each other both in their eccleſiaſtical deliberations and perſonal intercourſe.

"That they have framed a conſtitution and a plan of a miſſionary ſociety, to conſiſt of the members of the General Aſſociation of Connecticut annually choſen.

"They have choſen twelve truſtees, one half of which are clergymen and the other half laymen to tranſact the miſſionary buſineſs under the ſuperintendance of the aſſociation. To raiſe a fund for carrying on the buſineſs they have taken meaſures for obtaining ſubſcriptions and raiſing collections in all their churches.

"That they have directed the committee of correſpondence to write to the independent Fund-board of London, and other religious ſocieties of Great Britain requeſting them to give ſpecial certificates to thoſe of the clergy who may come from them to the ſtate of Connecticut.

"That they have appointed ſix miſſionaries to go out this year to preach the goſpel on the frontiers, and to continue in that ſervice four months.

"That they have appointed the Rev. Nathan Perkins, the Rev. John Elliott, and the Rev. Samuel Blatchford, delegates to the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian church, to meet at Wincheſter on the third Thurſday of May 1799.

"And that the next General Aſſociation is to meet at Hartford, on the third Tueſday of June next, at 11 o'clock, at the houſe of the Rev Nathan Strong.

SAMUEL BLAIR.
JOSEPH CLARKE.
NATHANIEL IRWIN.

The assembly proceeded to the appointment of delegates to the General Association of Connecticut, to meet at Hartford on the third Tuesday of June at 11 o'clock A. M. when it appeared that the Rev. Dr. John Rodgers of New-York, the Rev. Dr. James Muir of Alexandria, and the Rev. Robert Finley of Basking ridge were duly chosen—certificates of their appointment were ordered to be made out and signed by the moderator and one of the clerks.

An application from the Presbytery of Baltimore was made to the Assembly in the following words, viz—

"On considering the distance at which some of our members reside from each other, being nearly one hundred miles; the pecular difficulty to many, of attending the sessions of Presbytery where they ought to be sometimes held; and the different changes that have taken place among us; a new arrangement appeared highly necessary to remedy the inconveniences thence arising, and render our attendance on the judicatories more practicable and useful.

"Our commissioners to the General Assembly were accordingly instructed to propose that the Rev. John Slemons, George Luckey, Samuel Martin, and Caleb Johnson, be joined to the Presbytery of New Castle, and that the churches of those among these members, who have pastoral relations, together with the vacancies at Deer creek and Chanceford, be all placed under the care of that presbytery."

Done in the Presbytery of Baltimore, at the city of Baltimore, April 10th, 1799.

PATRICK ALLISON, *Moderator.*

Whereupon resolved, the commissioners from both Presbyteries consenting, that the said members and congregations be detached from the Presbtery of Baltimore, and connected with that of New-Castle, agreeably to their request.

Two members of the committee appointed by the General Assembly of last year, to report a plan for the better prosecuting of the business of missions on our frontiers, informed the Assembly that having had no opportunity to meet, they have no report.

Whereupon on motion, ordered that Dr. M'Knight, and Mr. Hillyer be added to that committee, to report to the General Assembly before they rise.

On motion resolved, that the Assembly will proceed to-morrow morning to a general and free conversation on the state of religion, its dangers, and its difficulties, and the most likely means to revive and strengthen its influence.

A resolution from the Presbytery of New-York relative to the regulations adopted at the last General Assembly with regard to the introduction of foreign ministers, and alledging that they were unnecessary, unconstitutional, uncharitable and inconsistent, was pro-

duced in the Assembly, which being read, moved that said regulations be rescinded—after ample discussion and mature deliberation it was determined that they be not rescinded.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church to endeavour to obtain from the state of Pennsylvania, an act of incorporation authorising certain trustees to hold the property of the Assembly, &c.

REPORT—

That on application to the Legislature they obtained the act of incorporation for which they were directed to apply; a copy of which accompanies this report, corresponding exactly with the draught which was last year submitted to the Assembly, excepting only that the sum which the trustees are authorised to hold is somewhat smaller than was inserted in that draught.

The above report, and act of incorporation accompanying it, were read and approved.

The act is as follows:

An Act for incorporating the Trustees of the Ministers and Elders constituting the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, in the United States of America.

WHEREAS the ministers and elders forming the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, consisting of citizens of the state of Pennsylvania, and of others of the United States of America aforesaid, have by their petition represented, that by donations, bequests or otherwise, of charitably disposed persons, they are possessed of monies for benevolent and pious purposes, and the said ministers and elders have reason to expect farther contributions for similar uses; but from the scattered situation of the said ministers and elders, and other causes, the said ministers and elders find it extremely difficult to manage the said funds, in the way best calculated to answer the intention of the donors: Therefore,

Sect. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That John Rogers, Alexander M'Whorter, Samuel Stanhope Smith, Ashbel Green, William M. Tennent, Patrick Allison, Nathan Irvin, Joseph Clark, Andrew Hunter, Jared Ingersol, Robert Ralston, Jonathan B. Smith, Andrew Bayard, Elias Boudinot, John Nelson, Ebenezer Hazard, David Jackson, and Robert Smith, merchant, and their successors duly elected and appointed in manner as is hereinafter directed, be, and they are hereby made, declared and constituted, a corporation and body politic and corporate, in law and in fact, to have continuance forever, by the name, style and title of "Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America;" and by the name, style and title aforesaid,

ſhall, forever hereafter, be perſons able and capable in law as well to take, receive and hold, all and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchiſes and other hereditaments, which at any time or times heretofore have been granted, bargained, ſold, enfeoffed, releaſed, deviſed or otherwiſe conveyed, to the ſaid miniſters and elders of the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian church in the United States, or any other perſon or perſons, to their uſe, or in truſt for them; and the ſame lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchiſes and other hereditaments, are hereby veſted and eſtabliſhed in the ſaid corporation, and their ſucceſſors forever, according to the original uſe and intent for which ſuch deviſes, gifts and grants were reſpectively made; and the ſaid corporation and their ſucceſſors, are hereby declared to be ſeized and poſſeſſed of ſuch eſtate and eſtates therein, as in and by the reſpective grants, bargains, ſales, enfeoffments, releaſes, deviſes and other conveyances thereof, is or are declared limited and expreſſed; alſo, that the ſaid corporation and their ſucceſſors, at all times hereafter, ſhall be capable and able to purchaſe, have, receive, take, hold and enjoy, in fee ſimple, or of leſſer eſtate or eſtates, any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchiſes and other hereditaments, by the gift, grant, bargain, ſale, alienation, enfeoffment, releaſe, confirmation or deviſe, of any perſon or perſons, bodies politic and corporate, capable and able to make the ſame: And further, that the ſaid miniſters and elders, under the corporate name aforeſaid, and their ſucceſſors, may take and receive any ſum or ſums of money, and any portion of goods and chattels, that have been given to the ſaid miniſters and elders, or that hereafter ſhall be given, ſold, leaſed or bequeathed, to the ſaid corporation, by any perſon or perſons, bodies politic or corporate, that is able or capable to make a gift, ſale, bequeſt or other diſpoſal of the ſame; ſuch money, goods or chattels, to be laid out and diſpoſed of, for the uſe and benefit of the aforeſaid corporation, agreeably to the intention of the donors, and according to the objects, articles and conditions of this act.

Sect. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid,* That no miſnomer of the ſaid corporation and their ſucceſſors, ſhall defeat or annul, any gift, grant, deviſe or bequeſt, to or for the ſaid corporation, provided the intent of the party or parties ſhall ſufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, will, grant or other writing, whereby any eſtate or intereſt, was intended to paſs to or for the ſaid corporation.

Sect. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid,* That the ſaid corporation and their ſucceſſors, ſhall have full power and authority, to make, have and uſe, one common ſeal, with ſuch device and inſcription as they ſhall think fit and proper; and the ſame to break, alter and renew, at their pleaſure.

Sect. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid,* That the ſaid corporation and their ſucceſſors, by the name, ſtyle and title aforeſaid, ſhall be able and capable in law, to ſue and be

ſued, plead and be impleaded, in any court, or before any judge or juſtice, in all and all manner of ſuits, complaints, pleas, matters and demands, of whatſoever nature, kind and form they may be; and all and every matter and thing to do, in as full and effectual a manner, as any other perſon, bodies politic or corporate, within this commonwealth, may or can do.

Sect. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the ſaid corporation and their ſucceſſors, ſhall be, and hereby are authoriſed and empowered, to make, ordain, and eſtabliſh, bye laws and ordinances, and do every thing incident and needful for the ſupport and due government of the ſaid corporation, and managing the funds and revenues thereof; *Provided*, the ſaid bye laws be not repugnant to the conſtitution and laws of the United States, to the conſtitution and laws of this commonwealth, or to this act.

Sect. 6. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid*, That the ſaid corporation ſhall not, at any time, conſiſt of more than eighteen perſons; whereof the ſaid General Aſſembly may, at their diſcretion, as often as they ſhall hold their ſeſſions in the ſtate of Pennſylvania, change one third, in ſuch manner as to the ſaid General Aſſembly ſhall ſeem proper; And the corporation aforeſaid, ſhall have power and authority, to manage and diſpoſe of all monies, goods, chattels, lands, tenements and hereditaments, and other eſtate whatſoever, committed to their care and truſt, by the ſaid General Aſſembly: but in cases where ſpecial inſtructions, for the management and diſpoſal thereof, ſhall be given by the ſaid General Aſſembly in writing, under the hand of their clerk, it ſhall be the duty of the ſaid corporation, to act according to ſuch inſtructions, *Provided*, the ſaid inſtructions ſhall not be repugnant to the conſtitution and laws of the United States, or to the conſtitution and laws of this commonwealth, or to the proviſions and reſtrictions in this act contained.

Sect. 7. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforeſaid*, That ſix members of this corporation, whereof the preſident, or in his abſence the vice preſident, to be one, ſhall be a ſufficient number to transact the buſineſs thereof, and to make bye laws, rules and regulations; *Provided*, that previous to any meeting of the board or corporation, for ſuch purpoſes, not appointed by adjournment, ten days notice ſhall be previouſly given thereof, in at leaſt one of the newspapers printed in the city of Philadelphia: And the ſaid corporation ſhall and may, as often as they ſhall ſee proper, and according to the rules by them to be preſcribed, chooſe out of their number, a preſident and vice-preſident, and ſhall have authority to appoint a treaſurer, and ſuch other officers and ſervants, as ſhall by them, the said corporation, be deemed neceſſary; to which officers the ſaid corporation may aſſign ſuch a compenſation for their ſervices, and ſuch duties to be performed by them, to continue in office for ſuch time, and to be ſucceeded by others, in ſuch way and manner as the ſaid corporation ſhall direct,

Sect. 8. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all questions before the said corporation, shall be decided by a plurality of votes, whereof each member present shall have one, except the president, or vice-president when acting as president, who shall have only the casting voice and vote, in case of an equality in the votes of the other members.

Sect. 9. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said corporation shall keep regular and fair entries of their proceedings, and a just account of their receipts and disbursements, in a book or books to be provided for that purpose; and their treasurer shall, once in a year, exhibit to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, an exact state of the accounts of the corporation.

Sect. 10. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the said corporation may take, receive, purchase, possess and enjoy, messuages, houses, lands, tenements, rents, annuities and other hereditaments, real and personal estate of any amount, not exceeding ten thousand dollars a year value, but the said limitation not to be considered as including the annual collections, and voluntary contributions, made in the churches under the care of the said General Assembly.

CADWALADER EVANS, Jun.
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
ROBERT HARE,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED
March 28, 1799.

THOMAS MIFFLIN,
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Whereupon on motion resolved,

1st. That the trustees mentioned in said act be, and they are hereby requested to meet in the Second Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, on Wednesday, the 26th day of June, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and then and there proceed to the election of a president and vice-president, treasurer, and such other officers as the act of incorporation impowers them to choose, and to do such other matters and things, as their duty as trustees shall require.

And the Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, stated clerk of the General Assembly, is hereby directed to advertize the above time and place of meeting in one of the daily papers of Philadelphia, and in one of the daily papers of the city of New-York at least two weeks before the time of meeting.

Resolved further, that the account presented to this Assembly from Mr. Isaac Snowden, the present treasurer of the General Assembly, and the report of the committee appointed by the General Assembly of last year, to examine the accounts of Mr. R. Aitken printer and bookseller, together with said accounts presented to this Assembly, be referred to the trustees of the General Assembly of

this church at the time and place appointed for their firſt meeting, and that Dr. Tennent be directed to tranſmit ſaid report and accounts accordingly.

The committee to prepare from the reports of the miſſionaries, a general one reſpecting the ſtate of religion on the frontiers, and the ſucceſs of our miſſionaries, and to ſettle their accounts.

Reported as follows, viz.

That there are many thouſands of people ſettled in that extenſive tract of country, who are anxious to have the goſpel and its ordinances diſpenſed amongſt them; ſome congregations are already formed by the aſſiſtance of the miſſionaries who have at different times viſited that portion of the United States through which they travelled, and are growing into a condition to have miniſters regularly ſettled amongſt them, and a great many more may in time be formed, if due attention be given them.

That the miſſionaries had proceeded on the reſpective tours preſcribed by the laſt General Aſſembly, and agreeably, with few exceptions, to the inſtructions given them, and had been faithful in preaching the goſpel, and in catechizing, and adminiſtering the ſacraments, as it appeared proper and expedient—that thirteen adults and 154 children were baptized by them; that the people generally appeared to give attention to the word preached with reverence and ſolemnity; and ſeveral examples of its powerful effect in impreſſing the heart, and reforming the life had been obſerved, in the courſe of the reſpective miſſions. Upon the whole, it appears that very precious and extenſive effects to the advancement of religion, have flowed from the inſtitution of miſſions; that there is ſtill great encouragement to proſecute the plan, and to recommend to all the congregations under the care of the Aſſembly to continue to make public collections once or oftener in the year, to aſſiſt in carrying on this benevolent and charitable work.

Ordered, that thoſe Preſbyteries which have not forwarded the monies which have been collected for the uſe of the General Aſſembly, be directed to transmit ſuch monies as ſoon as poſſible to the treasurer of the truſtees of the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian church in the United States of America.

The committee appointed to prepare a paſtoral letter to the churches, reported a draught of one, which was read and after ſome amendments, was adopted, and is as follows, viz.

Dear Friends, and Brethren.

Being by the favour of Divine Providence conſtitutionally convened, in General Aſſembly for the purpoſe of deliberating upon thoſe affairs which reſpect the welfare and intereſt of that branch of Chriſt's church more immediately under our care and ſuperintendance, and having made particular enquiry into the preſent ſtate of the religious ſocieties and churches within our limits, and of practical religion among them, together with the probable means of

promoting the prosperity, and increasing the spirit and power of vital piety and godliness throughout our country; we esteem it our duty to communicate to you the result of our enquiries, and deliberations on these important subjects; to suggest to you those duties which we suppose particularly incumbent on you, and such considerations as may seem best calculated, in a proper manner to affect and influence you.

Know then, dear brethren, that notwithstanding there is still cause to deplore the great prevalence of vice and immorality; to lament that the duties of religion are not attended to as they ought to be; or that its sacred institutions and ordinances are not duly revered, nor accompanied, in general by those influences of the spirit of God, which are necessary to give them their desired efficacy; yet that amidst this generally unfavourable aspect, there are several particular circumstances peculiarly comforting and encouraging. It appears, alas! that in some parts of our churches, there is a prevailing luke-warmness and formality in religion, that the wise virgins are slumbering and sleeping with the foolish; that through the abounding of iniquity, the love of many is waxen cold; and that those pernicious principles which tend to sap the very foundation of religion and morality, to destroy our present peace and comforts, and to blast the hopes of a blessed and glorious immortality, have, in various instances been imbibed, and produced their unhappy effects. But we have heard from different parts, the glad-tidings of the out-pouring of the spirit, and of times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. We have heard from several parts of our churches, and elsewhere, of the late hopeful conversion of many. From the East, from the West, and from the South, have these joyful tidings reached our ears. Yes, of the triumphs of the power and grace of the Redeemer in bringing several determined and avowed infidels into subjection to himself, and making them the willing captives of his cross, have we heard. And in various other places, where the effects are not so powerful and great, we are happy to learn that there is an evident increased respect for the institutions of religion, and attention to its important concerns.

The favourable reports of our missionaries upon our northern and western frontiers, of their labours and successes, during the last year, afford rational ground to believe that the appropriations of the voluntary contributions of our Christian brethren, for the benevolent purpose of extending the means of religious instruction, in those parts of our country, will prove satisfactory to them, and encourage them to further assistances in that way.

Let us not despise the day of comparatively small things. Let us give God the glory for what he has done, and look to him, and trust in him for what we hope he will further do. This small cloud which appears as yet but as a man's hand, may overspread our horizon, and plentifully water the churches with the showers of heavenly grace.

Lift up your eyes upon the nations of the world. Doth it not appear as if God was arising to shake terribly the earth? Fear not. Whatever the designs of Satan and wicked men may be; the Lord reigneth. The administrations of the kingdoms of Providence and grace, are in the hand of the Glorious Mediator. He is given to be the head over all things for the church. "The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voices; the floods "lift up their waves. But thou art mightier than they; thou stillest "the noise of the sea, the noise of its waves, and the tumults of the "people."

All the dispensations of Providence referred to, tend to promote, and shall finally terminate in the advancement of the glory of God, and the best interest of his church and people.

Is there, then a person who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, that doth not anxiously enquire, what is my duty? what is incumbent on me, or what can I do that will have a tendency to advance the glory of God, the interests of my Redeemer, and the welfare of precious and immortal souls?

To all such enquirers we answer, let each commence the work by vigorous exertions, in a diligent use of the means for reviving the life and power of religion in his own soul. Let ministers labour to preach the gospel of Christ ably and faithfully, as those who believe its truths, and feel its power; and be conscientious in the discharge of all parochial duties. Let those who are entrusted with the government of the church, faithfully exercise its wholesome discipline. Let the people be conscientious in regarding the institutions of Christ.

Let heads of families be careful to instruct their children, and those committed to their care, in the great principles of our holy religion. Let their morning and evening sacrifices be daily offered up in their families, to God. Let them make conscience of secret duties. Let all sigh and mourn for the prevailing abominations; and for the concern which they had in provoking the life-giving spirit of God to suspend, and withdraw his gracious influences in so great a degree from the churches. Let those who fear the Lord, speak often one to another. Let them, individually and in a social capacity, importune the throne of grace, and according to his own gracious and condescending language, give God no rest, until he appear in his glory, and build up Zion.

How happy would it be, to see sinners flocking unto Jesus as a cloud, and as doves into their windows? To hear many enquiring the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward? To hear believers tell what God had done for their souls? Expressing as they are able, the glories of the Redeemer, Jesus, the sweetness of redeeming love, their gloryings in the cross of Christ, and their scriptural confidence of a happy immortality; and to see them adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things? O glorious sight, when the church "shall look forth as the morning; fair as the moon; clear "as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners; when the righte-

" ouſneſs thereof ſhall go forth as brightneſs, and the ſalvation there-
" of as a lamp that burneth; and when all the ends of the earth ſhall
" ſee the ſalvation of our God."

Chriſtian friends and brethren, be not diſcouraged, your Redeemer liveth. The triumphing of the wicked is ſhort. Glorious things are ſpoken of Zion, the city of our God. Faithful is he who has promiſed. Be not ye then ſlothful in buſineſs, but fervent in ſpirit, ſerving the Lord. Let the love of Chriſt conſtrain you to live, not unto yourſelves, but unto him who died for you, and roſe again. Realiſe the eye of God continually upon you, and his preſence continually with you. Realiſe and improve the ſufficiency of grace promiſed you by your Redeemer. Realiſe the ſhortneſs of your pilgrimage ſtate. Realiſe that bleſſed hope the glorious appearance of the great God, and our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. Realiſe the tranſient nature of all time things, and the ſubſtantial and permanent bleſſings of the heavenly world. Realiſe that exceeding and eternal weight of glory, that fulneſs of joy which is in the preſence of God, and thoſe pleaſures which are at his right hand forevermore. Sure we are, theſe conſiderations are ſufficient to animate you in the diſcharge of every duty, to ſupport and comfort you under every ſuffering, to enable you to reſiſt temptation, to mortify your corruption, to overcome the world, and to triumph over death, your laſt enemy.

Shortly ſhall an entrance be miniſtered abundantly, to every ſincere and humble follower of Chriſt, into his everlaſting kingdom, where they ſhall unite with all the redeemed, in ſinging the ſong of Moſes, the ſervant of God, and the ſong of the lamb, " Unto him " that loved us, and waſhed us from our ſins in his own blood, and " hath made us kings and prieſts unto God and his father, be glory " and dominion forever and ever."

The committee appointed to ſtate the grounds on which the Aſſembly has thought proper not to comply with the requeſt of the Preſbytery of New-York, to reconſider and reſcind the regulations eſtabliſhed by the laſt General Aſſembly, relative to the introduction of foreign miniſters, Reported as follows, " Your committee to ſtate &c. beg leave to report,

1. That the firſt reaſon aſſigned by the Preſbytery of New-York, for their requeſt, is founded on a miſ-interpretation of an ambiguous expreſſion in the conſtitution. The ſixth ſection of the 11th chap. is thus expreſſed, " *Before any overtures or regulations proposed by the* " *Aſſembly as* STANDING RULES *ſhall be obligatory on the churches, it* " *ſhall be neceſſary to tranſmit them to all the Preſbyteries, and to receive* " *the returns of at leaſt, a majority of the Preſbyteries in writing, ap-* " *proving thereof.*"

Standing rules, in this ſection can refer only to one of the following objects—1ſt. To articles of the conſtitution, which when once eſtabliſhed, are unalterable by the Aſſembly—or 2dly. To every rule or law enacted without any term of limitation expreſſed in

the act. The latter meaning would draw after it consequences so extensive and injurious as forbid the Assembly to give the section that interpretation. It would reduce this Assembly to a mere committee to prepare business upon which the Presbyteries might act. It would undo, with few exceptions, all the rules that have been established by this Assembly since its first institution, and would prevent it forever from establishing any rule not limited in the terms of the act itself. Besides, *standing rules* in the evident sense of the constitution, cannot be predicated of any act made by the Assembly and repealable by it, because they are limited in their very nature, to the duration of a year, if it please the Assembly to exert the power, inherent in it at all times to alter or annul them, and they continue to be rules only by the Assembly's not using its power of repeal. The law in question, is no otherwise a *standing rule*, than all other laws repealable by this Assembly.

2d. The Presbytery of New-York also imputes to these rules a defect of charity towards foreign churches. The charity of this Assembly for foreign churches is undiminished. The rule is established to guard as far as possible against impostors who plead a relation to those churches which they do not actually hold. The churches in America have so frequently and so severely suffered by impostors of this description—and our relative position to Europe, and the newness of our country, render impositions so easy, and detection so difficult, that rules too scrupulous on this subject can hardly be adopted. The existing rule, although somewhat irksome to good men, will be cheerfully submitted to for the superior interests of religion. Nay, it is believed, that such men grieved at the dishonour brought upon the churches of their native country by unworthy emigrants from them into this, will readily co-operate with the Assembly in every measure that will contribute to preserve the purity and respect of their name, and by a state of probationary trial will tend to discriminate between meritorious and unworthy ministers who shall offer their services to our churches.

3d. An inconsistency is supposed further to exist in one part of the rule to another, because, it permits Colleges, Academies, and individual Churches, to call from Europe to this country, men of known and good character to preside over them without subjecting such men to the probation prescribed in other cases. Your committee does not perceive the inconsistency that has been attempted to be pointed out; especially as no individual church can call a minister from abroad more than at home without the permission and advice of the Presbytery to which it is attached, and who will, in ordinary cases, be able to preserve it from imposition. The Assembly however might not object to a modification of the rule as far as it relates to Academies, unconnected with pastoral charges.

4th. The Presbytery of New-York, likewise deems this rule *unnecessary*. The greater part of the Presbyteries composing this Assembly as far as their opinions can be now collected, esteem it

useful. Time will either confirm its utility, or point out the amendments of which it is susceptible.

Your committee farther advise a reference of this article of the constitution to the respective Presbyteries for their interpretation, at the same time recommending to them to advise and empower the next Assembly to substitute the phrase *constitutional rules*, in this article, in the room of *standing rules*.

The above report was accepted, and ordered to be inserted on the minutes, and agreeably to the last article, the respective Presbyteries were, and they are hereby required to send up to the next Assembly their opinion on the subject of the *constitution* referred to, and if they think proper, to advise and empower said Assembly to make the alteration therein proposed in the phraseology of this section, according to the mode pointed out in the *constitution* for effecting any alterations in that instrument.

Dr. Ashbel Green, Dr. John B. Smith, Mr. John M'Culloch, were appointed a committee to superintend the printing of 1000 copies of the extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly, and also to distribute them in equal proportions, among the Presbyteries belonging to this body. Ordered that they draw upon the treasurer Mr. Isaac Snowden, or the treasurer of the trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, for the amount of the expences which may be incurred in the execution of this business.

The Rev. George Scott, a missionary sent out by the Synod of New-York, and New-Jersey, to itinerate during the winter on the north western frontiers, forwarded his reports to the Assembly, which having been read, on application from the Synod of New-York and New-Jersey, resolved that said Mr. Scott be received as a missionary of this Assembly, and that the treasurer pay his accounts.

The committee appointed to bring in a report on the result of the free conversation on the state of religion and the most probable means to advance its progress, offered the following to the consideration of the Assembly.

There appears from the whole view of religion within the limits of the churches subject to the inspection and care of the General Assembly, to be ground both of mutual congratulation and of affliction to the friends of piety. In many portions of the United States its interests appear to be in a favourable progression, in others there is great room to lament the declension of the vital spirit of religion, and the openness, and boldness of impiety and immorality.—A vain and pernicious philosophy has, in many instances, spread its infection from Europe to America; and the introduction of a multitude of licentious, and unprincipled writings has poisoned the sources of morals in certain classes of society, or in particular dis-

tricts of the Church. It requires, under the gracious direction, and influence of divine Providence, the awakened zeal and combined exertions of all the friends of the gospel of Christ, and especially of its ministers and other officers, to arrest the progress of vice and profaneness, and to advance the principles and practice of virtue and piety. For this end it seems to be requisite to revive and invigorate our attention to the qualifications, and improvements with regard to the ministry—to the wise and faithful discharge of our pastoral duties—and to the extension of the means of grace to those portions of our country that have hitherto been destitute of this blessing. Your committee therefore, recommend to the Assembly to enjoin it upon all their Presbyteries—1st. To take the most effectual order in their power to increase, if possible, the qualifications of candidates for the gospel ministry, with regard both to sincere piety, and to solid and extensive learning, that the improvements of the pulpit may keep full pace with the progress of society and letters.

2d. That they endeavour, as far as the state of society in different parts of our church will permit, to withdraw the ministers of the gospel from every worldly avocation for the maintenance of themselves and families, that they may devote themselves entirely to the work of their ministry. And that, for this end, they labour to convince the people of the advantage that will accrue to themselves from making such adequate provision for the support of their teachers and pastors, that they may be employed wholly in their sacred calling. And, in those places, where it may be found prudent and practicable, that they devise means to have the contracts between congregations and pastors, examined in the Presbyteries, at stated periods—enquiries instituted, with regard to the reciprocal fulfilment of duties and engagements—and endeavours used to promote punctuality and fidelity in both parties, before distress on one side, and complaint on the other, grow to a heighth, unfavourable to the interests of religion.

3d. That inasmuch, as the clergy in many situations in the country have it not in their power to furnish themselves with libraries, so various and extensive, as to enable them to discharge their office in the manner most useful to the people, most dignified to the pulpit, and most honorable to religion; it be recommended to Presbyteries, to take measures to promote the establishment of congregational libraries, under such regulations, that the Presbyteries shall have the principal direction, in the choice of the books with which those libraries shall be furnished; the ministers of the respective churches, shall have the immediate care, and the constant use of them, and that means be used to make annual augmentations to them.

4th. That in the discharge of pastoral duties, they take the utmost care, that the word of God be known and understood by the people, and that, for this purpose, in their public instructions, the practise of lecturing on certain portions of the holy scriptures, be

not laid aſide, but rather revived and increaſed.—That they endeavour, where it is prudent and practicable, to inſtitute private ſocieties, for reading, prayer, and pious converſation. Above all, that they be faithful in the duties of family viſitation, and the catechetical inſtruction of children and youth. And, that, in order to aid theſe views, they endeavour to engage the ſeſſions of the reſpective congregations, or other men moſt diſtinguiſhed for intelligence and piety in them, to aſſume, as truſtees, the ſuperintendance and inſpection of the ſchools eſtabliſhed for the inſtruction and improvement of children in the elements of knowledge, to ſee that they be provided with teachers of grave and reſpectable characters, and that theſe teachers, among other objects of their duty, inſtruct their pupils in the principles of religion, which ſhould be done, as often as poſſible, in the preſence of one or more of the aforeſaid truſtees, under the deep conviction, that the care and education of children, the examples ſet before them, and the firſt impreſſions made on their minds, are of the utmoſt importance to civil ſociety as well as to the church.

5th. That inaſmuch, as the General Aſſembly are aſſiduouſly labouring to propagate the goſpel throughout our extenſive and growing frontiers, and in thoſe places moſt deſtitute of the means of grace, it be earneſtly enjoined on each Preſbytery to uſe their moſt diligent endeavours, to collect voluntary and liberal contributions, and to obtain pious donations and bequeſts from every congregation, whether furniſhed with a paſtor, or vacant, in order to ſupply the funds, which are abſolutely neceſſary to carry on with advantage this great and charitable work.

Let miniſters ſtudy to impreſs the minds of the people, with the importance of the object, be diligent in their own exertions to promote it, and punctual in forwarding their contributions to the Treaſurers of the commiſſions of the ſouthern Synods, or to the Treaſurer of the *Truſtees of the Preſbyterian Church in the United States of America*, aſſured, that without their faithful aid and co-operation, miſſions, and other undertakings of utility to the church, ſo piouſly begun, and hitherto conducted with ſuch promiſing proſpects of ſucceſs, muſt eventually fail. And let it be required of all the Preſbyteries, that they annually ſend up to the General Aſſembly, along with the duplicates of their reports, exact accounts of all monies received, and tranſmitted for theſe objects, that they may be uſed as checks on the Treaſury.

6th. That the recommendations and regulations, that are from year to year, made and publiſhed by the General Aſſembly may always be known and preſent in the judicatories of the church, for their direction, and government, that it be required that each Preſbytery, Synod, and the General Aſſembly forever, preſerve one copy of the extracts or journals, that are yearly published, for its own uſe—that it ſhall be indexed, and ſtitched or bound with thoſe which have preceded it, in the manner that ſhall be deemed moſt expedient; and that the whole ſhall be always kept, or brought up to the

place of meeting of such Presbytery, Synod, or General Assembly, along with their own records.

7th. That they send up with their yearly reports, a schedule, containing the number of communicants belonging to each of their churches; and all the number of persons yearly baptised, whether in infancy, or at adult age.

All which is humbly submitted by your committee.

The report being read, resolved that it be approved and adopted—and ordered, that the several Synods, Presbyteries, and individual churches, as far as they are respectively concerned, govern themselves accordingly.

The committee appointed by the General Assembly of the last year to enquire into the religious state of our Western extensive frontiers; and whether any, and what alterations may, with probable advantage, be made in our present plan of managing the missions in those parts, reported as follows, viz.

That on the most careful enquiry, the committee have been able to make, the state of religion in our Western frontiers is, on the whole, promising.—Through the blessing of God, on the labours of missionaries heretofore employed in those parts, several respectable congregations have been formed; the dispositions of the people are, in general, favourable to the establishment of the pure worship and ordinances of the gospel amongst them.

The Assembly's missionaries, have been received with much respect, their ministrations been attended to, with a becoming seriousness; a cordial thankfulness for their labours, and an earnest desire, that further aid may be afforded them in this way, appear to be the prevailing sentiments of the people in those parts.

But as that new and extensive country is settling by emigrations from various parts of the United States and other countries; and as teachers of various denominations have gone into those new settlements, there is of course, a considerable variety in the religious sentiments that prevail there.—The denominations most distinguished and numerous are the Congregational, Presbyterian, and Baptist. A great proportion of characters of the first respectability for intelligence, property, and influence, come forward, and exert themselves for the establishment and prosperity of the institutions of religion.

As to the method of managing the missions in those parts, with the greatest probable advantage, your committee are of opinion, that a part of the report of the committee on missions brought in last year, should be carefully regarded, viz. "That missions should be "conducted by men of ability, piety, zeal, prudence, and popular "talents—that missionaries should be employed in preaching the "most important doctrines of the gospel, commonly called the doc-"trines of Grace, during the short period which they can afford "to stay in a particular place.—That they organize churches, when "opportunity offers, and administer ordinances—and that they cate-

" chiſe and inſtruct from houſe to houſe as far as practicable, when " they remain for a length of time in any ſettlement—That they " refrain from all political or party diſcuſſions of any kind—And, " with the ſelf-denial of their maſter, be wholly devoted to their " miniſtry, and examplary in their converſation—Alſo, that in keep- " ing their journals, they diſtinctly record the ſubjects on which " they preach and the apparent effect on their hearers."

" Your committee are further of opinion that it would be of the utmoſt importance in the miſſionary buſineſs, that one or more perſons of ſuitable character, take up their reſidence in towns the moſt convenient for the object of their appointment; whose buſineſs it ſhould be, beſide the ordinary buſineſs of miſſionaries, to receive applications from the different ſettlements in thoſe parts of our frontiers: to attend to particular riſing exigencies amongſt them; to be a common medium of information; and for aiding and directing ſuch miſſionaries as may be annually ſent out by the General Aſſembly—That in caſe ſuitable characters can be procured, to undertake this buſineſs, your committee are of opinion that, Fort Schuyler on the Mohawk river, and Geneva on the Seneca lake, are the two moſt proper towns for ſuch reſidence.

" But until a plan as above contemplated be affected, your committee are of opinion that the General Aſſembly continue to ſend annually as many miſſionaries of ſuitable character as can be procured. And that the terms of their continuance in that country, ſhould be longer, if poſſible, than uſual—Your committee are alſo of opinion, that the labour of the miſſionaries will be rendered very eaſy, and more ſucceſsful if they purſue their routs on the frontiers as much as poſſible by two and two.

" The following routs are pointed out as in the opinion of your committee, the moſt proper to be purſued by the Aſſembly's miſſionaries for the preſent year; and as the following gentlemen have been reported, and received as proper perſons to be employed on the miſſion, your committee adviſe that the Rev. David Barclay and the Rev. Robert Logan a licentiate of the Preſbytery of Lexington, commence their route at Tioga Point, on the 15th day of June next; thence proceed into the counties of Steuben and Ontario and ſpend three months or more in the principal ſettlements in thoſe counties —That the Rev. John Lindſley and the Rev. James Force, begin their route at Miniſink on the Delaware, at fartheſt, on the firſt day of Auguſt next, and viſit the ſettlements in the Beach Woods; then paſſing to the Owego on the Suſquehannah, proceed to the ſettlements on the Chenango and Unadilla rivers, and that they continue their labours in thoſe parts four months, or longer—That the Rev. Methuſelah Baldwin commence his miſſionary labours in the county of Onandago not later than the firſt of Auguſt next, and ſpend three months, or more in that county in connection with the Rev. Mr. Williſton, a miſſionary from the General Aſſociation of Connecticut.

"From the evident neceſſity of, and frequent enquiries after, the Confeſſion of Faith and ſyſtem of diſcipline of this church in that country—your committee recommend that meaſures be taken to have a number of copies of that book diſtributed amongſt the ſocieties formed, and forming there."

The above report being read and duly conſidered was approved. Whereupon reſolved, that regular commiſſions be furniſhed to the reſpective miſſionaries ſigned by the ſtated clerk, preſcribing in the commiſſions the routs which they are reſpectively to purſue—and that the miſſionaries account with the Aſſembly for any contributions which they may receive on their miſſions.

On motion, reſolved, that Mr. John M'Culloch, be and he is hereby requeſted to receive from Mr. Robert Aitken, printer, 300 copies of the Confeſſion of Faith and diſcipline of this church—and that he tranſmit 100 copies to James Hathaway, Eſq. at Fort Stanwix, and 100 copies to Evans and Gordan at Geneva, and 50 copies to Dr. John Hopkins, at Tioga Point, and 50 copies to Matthias Hollenback. Eſq. at Wilkeſbarre, to be by thoſe gentlemen diſtributed and ſold, as hereafter directed.

Reſolved further, that the perſons with whom the books ſhall be lodged at the above named places, be deſired to deliver any number of ſaid books to the order of any one of the miſſionaries ſent by the General Aſſembly into thoſe frontier countries—that they alſo ſell of ſaid books to any perſons applying for the ſame at one dollar per copy—and that they account with Mr. M'Culloch for the ſale and diſtribution of ſaid books ſo delivered to them—and alſo that Mr. M'Culloch account with the treaſurer of the board of truſtees of the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian church in the United States of America, that may be hereafter appointed, for his whole agency in this buſineſs.

Reſolved further, that the miſſionaries of the General Aſſembly may, and they are hereby directed to give orders on thoſe gentlemen with whom the books are lodged as above, in behalf of the congregations formed and forming on our frontiers, at the rate of one book for each congregation ſo formed or forming, to be to them gratuitouſly beſtowed by the General Aſſembly.

On motion reſolved, that Dr. Rogers and Dr. M'Whorter be a committee to endeavour to procure one or two proper perſons to be employed as reſident miſſionaries on our frontiers, agreeably to the report of the committee on the plan of miſſions, and make report to the next General Aſſembly.

Ordered, that Dr. Samuel S. Smith, and Mr. Samuel Snowden, be a committee to appoint ſupplies for the pulpit of Mr. Barclay—and that Mr. Van Artſdalen, and Mr. Hillyer be a committee to appoint ſupplies to the pulpit of Mr. Force.

Reſolved, that this General Aſſembly be diſſolved, and that the next General Aſſembly be required to meet in the Firſt Preſbyterian

church in Philadelphia, on the third Tueſday in May, Anno Domini 1800, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon—Whereupon the moderator diſſolved the Aſſembly agreeably to the form preſcribed in the conſtitution, and concluded with prayer.

FINIS.

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In the Year, 1800.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED BY R. AITKEN, No. 22,
Market Street.

1800.

ACTS, &c.

May 15, *A. D.* 1800.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met according to appointment, in the first Presbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock A. M. and was opened with a sermon by the Revd. Doctor Samuel S. Smith, the moderator of the last Assembly, from the 3d. verse of the epistle of Jude.

After prayer the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following persons were duly appointed commissioners to this Assembly, viz.

Of the Presbytery of Albany, the Revd. John Warford and John Lindsay, with Messrs. Alexander Kelly and James Boyd, Elders.

Of the Presbytery of Hudson, the Revd. Andrew King and Jonathan Freeman.

Of the Presbytery of New-York, the Revd. Doctors John Rodgers and Alexander M'Whorter, the Revd. Jedediah Chapman and James G. Force, with Messrs. John Mills, Stephen Wheeler and Stephen Baldwin, Elders.

Of the Presbytery of Long-Island, the Revd. George Faitoute.

Of the Presbytery of New-Brunswick, the Revd. Doctor Samuel S. Smith and the Revd. Joseph Clark and George Spafford Woodhull, with Col. John Bayard, Isaac Snowden, Esq. and Dr. Moses Scott, Elders.

Of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, the Revd. Doctor Ashbel Green, Revd. John Davenport, and Nathanael Irwin, with Doctor Jonathan Elmer and Mr. Robert M'Mullen, Elders.

Of the Presbytery of New-Castle, the Revd. Samuel Martin, with Mr. James Cummings and Col. John Steel, Elders.

Of the Presbytery of Carlisle, the Revd. John Linn, Robert Cathcart and James Snodgrass.

Of the Presbytery of Lewis, the Revd. John B. Slemons.

Of the Preſbytery of Baltimore, the Revd. Doctor James Muir, with Mr. James Orme, Elder.

Of the Preſbytery of Huntingdon, the Revd. John B. Patterſon, David Wiley and John Johnſon, with Samuel Hutchinſon and John Watſon, Eſq. Elder.

Of the Preſbytery of Redſtone, the Revd. James Power and James Dunlap, with Meſſrs. John Wright and Edward Cooke, Elders.

Of the Preſbytery of Wincheſter, the Revd. Moſes Hoge.

Of the Preſbytery of Ohio, the Revd. Joſeph Patterſon and Samuel Ralſton.

Of the Preſbytery of Lexington, the Revd. Robert Wilſon and Robert Logan.

Of the Preſbytery of Hanover, the Revd. Drury Lacy.

Of the Preſbytery of Orange, the Revd. John Anderſon.

Of the Preſbytery of Concord, the Revd. Joſeph D. Kirkpatrick.

Of the ſecond Preſbytery of South-Carolina, the Revd. Robert Wilſon.

The Revd Nathan Perkins, paſtor of the church of Weſt-Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, exhibited a certificate of his appointment as a delegate from the General Aſſociation of Connecticut to this Aſſembly; which being read and approved, he took his ſeat accordingly.

The Aſſembly proceeded to the appointment of a Moderator and Clerks; when the Revd Joſeph Clerk was choſen Moderator, and the Revd. Drury Lacy and Nathanael Irwin were choſen Clerks.

It appearing that the extracts made from time to time from the minutes of the General Aſſembly, have not obtained a general and ſeaſonable circulation among the Preſbyteries, it was therefore reſolved, that Doctor Smith, the Revd. Drury Lacy, Robert Wilſon, John Anderſon, and Moſes Hoge, with Edward Cooke, Eſq. and Doctor Elmer, Elders, be a committee to deviſe and report, the beſt method of inſuring an early and full diſtribution of ſuch extracts as ſhall hereafter be made.

The committee appointed to deviſe and report the moſt eligible method of enſuring a ſpeedy and full diſtribution of ſuch printed extracts from the minutes of the General Aſſembly, as ſhall hereafter be made, reported, that they are of opinion, that this important purpoſe may be moſt effectually as well as expeditiouſly accompliſhed by tranſmitting them to diſtant Preſbyteries by poſt, directed to ſuch members and to ſuch poſt-offices in the bounds of the reſpective Preſbyteries belonging to your body, as the members now preſent ſhall deſignate; and that the reſpective Preſbyteries to which ſuch extracts ſhall be ſent pay the poſtage, which report being read was approved and the members preſent ordered to regulate themſelves accordingly.

On motion reſolved, that the committee appointed to ſuperintend the printing and publiſhing the extracts from the minutes of this Aſſembly, be directed to have 1500 copies ſtruck off, and forwarded in due proportions to the reſpective Preſbyteries, and that the Treaſurer of the Corporation be requeſted to forward 200 copies to the frontiers, to be lodged in ſuch places as the Revd. Jedediah Chapman ſhall direct.

Reſolved, that the paſtors of all congregations under the care of the General Aſſembly, be and they are hereby directed, to read to their people in their Aſſemblies for public worſhip, ſuch extracts from the minutes of this year, as thoſe paſtors ſhall judge calculated to promote the intereſts of religion and favor the objects recommended to general attention by the Aſſembly, and that the ſame thing be done in vacant congregations, under the direction of their ſeveral ſeſſions.

The committee appointed to make enquiries reſpecting the truſt committed to Mr. John M Culloch, by the laſt Aſſembly, reported, that they made the neceſſary enquiries and find that the occurrence of the peſtilential fever in this city, the ſickneſs and death of Mr. M'Culloch, prevented him from making the diſtribution of books with which he had been charged, but that the monies committed to him, had been duly paid to the Treaſurer of the Corporation of the General Aſſembly.

The Revd. Doctor Green, laid before the Aſſembly, a petition from a body ſtiling themſelves the Preſbytery of Charleſton South-Carolina, requeſting to be received into connexion with this body, accompanied with other papers, which being read, On motion, reſolved, that Doctors Rodgers, M'Whorter and Green, and the Revd. Meſſrs. Cathcart, Wilſon and Anderſon, be a committee to take the ſame into conſideration, and report to the Aſſembly as ſoon as may be convenient.

The committee to whom was referred by the General Aſſembly, the conſideration of an application from Charleſton Preſbytery in South-Carolina, to be taken into connexion with the Aſſembly, made their report which being corrected, was adopted and is as follows.

" After examining the papers and propoſitions brought forward by the Charleſton Preſbytery, the committee think it expedient that the General Aſſembly, refer the buſineſs to the conſideration of the Synod of the Carolinas, with whom this Preſbytery muſt be connected if they become a conſtituent part of our body. That the ſaid Synod be informed, that the Preſbytery ought in the event of a connexion with us, to be allowed to enjoy and manage without hinderance or controul, all funds and monies that are now in their poſſeſſion, and that the congregations under the care of the Preſbytery, be permitted freely to uſe the ſyſtem of pſalmody which they have already adopted. That on the other hand the

Synod muſt be careful to aſcertain that all the miniſters and congregations belonging to the Preſbytery, do fully adopt not only the doctrines but the form of government and diſcipline of our church. That the Synod of the Carolinas under the guidance of theſe general principles ſhould be directed, if agreeable to them and to the Preſbytery, to receive ſaid Preſbytery as a part of that Synod. But if the Synod or the Preſbytery find difficulties in finally deciding on this ſubject, that they may refer ſuch difficulties, and tranſmit all the information they may collect relative to this buſineſs, to the next General Aſſembly."

Ordered that the ſtated clerk furniſh the parties concerned, with an atteſted copy of the above minute.

The committee appointed to diſpoſe of the intereſt of money in the hands of the truſtees of the college of New-Jerſey ſubject to the diſpoſal of the General Aſſembly, reported that they executed their truſt and appropriated ſaid intereſt.

The Preſbyteries were required to make their reports on the article of the conſtitution referred to them by the laſt Aſſembly, when the Preſbyteries of Hudſon, New-Brunſwick, Philadelphia, Huntingdon, Ohio, and Orange, reported their opinion that the ſaid article ought to be altered in the manner propoſed by the laſt Aſſembly, and authorizing the Aſſembly to make the alteration, the Preſbyteries of New-York, Long-Iſland, Carliſle and Baltimore, reported their opinion that the ſaid alteration ought not to be made. The other Preſbyteries not having forwarded reports to the Aſſembly on this ſubject, on motion, reſolved that the Preſbyteries which have not reported, be careful to ſend up their reports to the next General Aſſembly.

The commiſſioners from the Preſbytery of Albany, who were not preſent at the time of receiving the reports of the different Preſbyteries, on the reference of the 6th. ſect. of the 11th article of the conſtitution, laid before the Aſſembly the report of the Preſbytery of Albany thereupon, who declare that they think it improper that the Aſſembly ſhould make any alteration in the abovementioned ſection.

Doctor Rodgers and Ebenezar Hazard, Eſq. a committee from the corporation of the General Aſſembly, appeared in the houſe and informed that they had been inſtructed to communicate to this Aſſembly the minutes of the corporation, a ſtatement of their funds, an addreſs delivered to the corporation by their preſident the honorable Elias Boudinot, together with the report of a committee of the ſaid corporation and approved by them, ſubmitting a plan for augmenting their funds and directing their application. The ſeveral communications were read whereupon reſolved, that the Aſſembly take into conſideration this afternoon the plan of the corporation reſpecting the management of the funds.

The Assembly resumed the consideration of the subjects contained in the communication of the corporation for managing their funds, and agreed that the following objects deserve consideration, viz.

1st. The gospelizing of the Indians on the frontiers of our country—connected with a plan for their civilization, the want of which it is believed has been a great cause of the failure of former attempts to spread christianity among them. The ideas of the president of the corporation delivered in his address at their first meeting, would on this point deserve a serious attention.

2nd. The instruction of the negroes, the poor and those who are destitute of the means of grace in various parts of this extensive country; whoever contemplates the situation of this numerous class of persons in the United States, their gross ignorance of the plainest principles of religion, their immorality and profaneness, their vices and dissoluteness of manners, must be filled with anxiety for their present welfare, and above all for their future and eternal happiness.

3d. The purchasing and disposing of bibles and also, of books and short essays on the great principles of religion and morality, calculated to impress the minds of those to whom they are given with a sense of their duty both to God and man, and consequently of such a nature as to arrest the attention, interest the curiosity and touch the feelings of those to whom they are given.

4th. The provision of a fund for the more complete instruction of candidates for the gospel ministry previously to their licensure. The want of this having been a subject of general inconvenience, it would deserve consideration whether it would not be both easy and practicable to appoint a number of professors of theology (perhaps one in each Synod) to whom the candidates might resort as a matter of choice (though not of necessity) which professors might immediately be provided with a suitable library (the property of the corporation) and receive a small salary, to be augmented as their labours increase and the funds are extended. It would be a most desirable extension of this plan, if the funds could be rendered adequate to furnish partly or wholly the means of subsistence to the candidates for the ministry who may need such assistance during the time of their attendance on the professors.

As to the means and methods by which the funds necessary to the compassing of these objects may be provided the following ideas are suggested,

1st. The continuance of the annual contributions which are now ordered and which it may be fairly presumed will be abundantly more productive than they now are, when it is known that the objects here specified are in the view of the Assembly. For it has been found by experience that there is among the people generally a great readiness and freedom to contribute and that with liberality

to the promotion of every plan calculated to ſpread the goſpel among thoſe who are deprived of its bleſſings.

2nd. The appointment of two or more ſuitable perſons to travel through the country to ſolicit and receive donations for the purpoſes that have been mentioned.—The expences of ſuch perſons to be paid them, a ſmall compenſation to be allowed them, and if miniſters, the ſupplying of their pulpits during their abſence to be provided for. The proſpect of a very conſiderable augmentation of the funds, if this meaſure were adopted, appears flattering.

3d. The aid that may be reaſonably expected, from perſons of property, piety and benevolence contributing by teſtamentary bequeſts, and unſolicited donations (after the example of the preſident of the corporation) to the promotion of ſuch important and intereſting objects as thoſe which are here detailed.

4th. It is not impoſſible nor perhaps improbable that if experience ſhould demonſtrate the practicability and utility of the meaſures contemplated, the people of the preſbyterian denomination might generally be perſuaded to make an annual donation (ſay 25 cents each) to render them more extenſively effective, and this of itſelf would go very far towards providing a fund adequate to all the expences contemplated.

In connexion with what has already been ſtated, the following ideas deſerve attention.

1ſt. That not the leaſt alteration is wiſhed or contemplated in the plan already in operation for ſending miſſionaries to the frontiers. This plan is both uſeful and popular. All that ſhall be attempted is to be conſidered as additional to it.

2nd. That in conſiſtency with this, it may deſerve ſerious conſideration whether for the inſtruction of the Indians, the black people, and other perſons unacquainted with the principles of our holy religion, an order of men under the character of catechiſts might not be inſtituted, from among men of piety and good ſenſe, but without a liberal education. Not that theſe men ſhall be clothed with clerical functions, but that they confine themſelves to the private inſtruction of thoſe among whom they are ſent, together with occaſional addreſſes of a religious kind, made to collections of people that may aſſemble for this purpoſe and leading the devotional exerciſes among them; and this with a view to prepare the way for a few regular and ordained miniſters to follow after them to organize churches and adminiſter ordinances.

The catechiſts ſhall be carefully examined by the Preſbytries to whoſe bounds they moſt naturally belong, in regard to their qualifications for the work to be aſſigned them, they ſhall have a certificate of ſuch examination and the recommendation of the Preſbytery where it has been taken; they ſhall be directed by the Preſbytery where they are to labor, and without a compliance with theſe

directions they ſhall not be conſidered as authorized to act in the manner here contemplated.

Ordered that the foregoing ſtatement be publiſhed in the extracts of minutes for the current year, that the judicatures and people at large under the care of the Aſſembly may be acquainted with the views and wiſhes of their higheſt judicature. But the Aſſembly neither judge it expedient themſelves to attempt to carry into immediate effect all that is here ſuggeſted, nor to urge on their judicatures and people to attempt it. Some things only that are here ſpecified will be entered on by this Aſſembly, and the judicatures and people will judge for themſelves what other objects it may be proper for them voluntarily to regard. It is however conſidered expedient by the Aſſembly, that no catechiſts ſhould be ſent out, till a further order on the ſubject be iſſued by the General Aſſembly.

The addreſs of the preſident of the corporation of the General Aſſembly delivered to the board, having been read yeſterday, on motion reſolved that the thanks of this houſe be given to him for the information contained in the ſaid addreſs,

Reſolved that Doctor Green, Doctor Tennent, the Revd. Joſeph Clark, William Hill, Robert Cathcart and Woodhull of Newton, or in caſe of his failure Revd. George Faitoute be appointed to ſolicit donation in behalf of the truſtees of the General Aſſembly during the enſuing year, and that their expences be paid by the ſaid truſtees and their compenſation be made out of the monies to be by them collected. That each of the Preſbyteries to which the ſaid perſons belong, take order to ſupply their pulpits in their abſence. That the members of this Aſſembly generally and all the clergy of our denomination within our bounds, do aid the exertions of thoſe who ſhall go on this buſineſs. That theſe orders however, be not conſidered as extending to the Synod of the Carolinas, nor to the commiſſion of the Synod of Virginia weſt of the Allegahany mountains, but that the brethren comprehended in this exception, be and they are hereby directed to bring thoſe objects diſtinctly before the judicatures and individual miniſters under their care, and take ſuch meaſures to advance the purpoſes ſpecified as to themſelves ſhall appear beſt, and make an accurate report thereon to the next General Aſſembly.

Reſolved, that the Preſbyteries of Albany and Hudſon, take meaſures for appointing agents within their bounds reſpectively for the purpoſe of taking ſubſcriptions and receiving money for the funds of the General Aſſembly.

The draft of a ſubſcription to be propoſed to the people of the different congregations within our bounds, for the purpoſe of increaſing the funds of the General Aſſembly, was brought in and read and is as follows.

Whereas the General Aſſembly of the Preſbterian church have it in contemplation to attempt, more extenſively than has heretofore

been done, the chriſtianizing of the Indians, the inſtruction of the black people, and the propagation of chriſtian knowledge generally among thoſe who are uninſtructed in its principles, by the diſtribution among them of bibles, religious books and by other means: And whereas the ſaid General Aſſembly have been for ſome years paſt and now are making exertions to ſend miſſionaries to preach the goſpel on the frontiers of our country, which exertions have been crowned with much ſucceſs; WE whoſe names are underwritten do hereby engage and promiſe to pay to the incorporated truſtees of ſaid Aſſembly, or to their order, the ſum annexed to our names reſpectively, to enable ſaid Aſſembly and truſtees to promote the objects above recited: And our meaning and intention is that where we do not ſpecify the particular object to which our ſubſcriptions ſhall ſeverally be applied, theſe ſubſcriptions are to be diſpoſed of at the diſcretion of the General Aſſembly, or their truſtees.—

Which being approved, ordered, that 500 copies be printed and that 50 copies be delivered to each of the agents of the Aſſembly, who are now preſent and that the ſame number be tranſmitted to the other agents, to be diſpoſed of at their diſcretion, and that if any agent need an additional number of copies, he ſhall be ſupplied with them on application to the ſtated clerk.

The Aſſembly being informed that the miſſionary buſineſs and the funds for the ſupport thereof, which were confided to the Synod of the Carolinas have failed for ſome years paſt.

Therefore Reſolved,

That it be earneſtly recommended to that Synod to reſume this buſineſs with that zeal and diligence which the importance of it demands, and that they report their meaſures and ſucceſs to the next General Aſſembly.

In conſequence of a communication from the corporation of the Widows Fund, the Aſſembly earneſtly recommend it to the Preſbyteries, that when they ſettle miniſters in their churches they endeavour to convince ſuch miniſters of the importance of their ſpeedily becoming contributors to the Widows Fund, whereby they may at once provide for the ſupport of their families, and aſſiſt in ſupporting an inſtitution ſo charitable and uſeful in the church.

An overture was brought in through the committee of overtures in the following words.

" Whereas the General Aſſembly, had for a number of years taken order that each miniſter belonging to their body ſhould produce to the Aſſembly a full and accurate hiſtory of his own congregation and this matter was proceeded in as far as was deemed expedient, and all thoſe materials are now *in retentis*, it is humbly propoſed that an attention to this buſineſs be revived, and that the Aſſembly ſhould direct their Preſbyteries to take order that every Preſbytery ſhould produce to next General Aſſembly as

complete a hiſtory as poſſible of their own Preſbytery, that the aſſembly may be furniſhed with proper materials for the compilation of a hiſtory of the Preſbyterian church in this country."

Which overture was agreed to, and the Preſbyteries directed to furniſh the hiſtorical details therein required againſt the next meeting of the Aſſembly.

The delegates of the General Aſſembly, to the General Aſſociation of the churches of Connecticut, which met in Hartford June 18th, 1799, reported, that they attended during the whole time of their ſitting, that they were received with the utmoſt cordiality, and treated with great attention and reſpect, that the buſineſs which came before them was chiefly of a local nature, that the Aſſociation have appointed a committee to reviſe alterations in, and amendments to Doctor Watts' verſion of the Pſalms of David made by the Revd. Doctor Dwight, to be joined by a committee from the General Aſſembly, as will appear from the incloſed extract N°. 1, that they have appointed a committee to make out regular certificates for their miniſters and candidates, as will appear from N°. 2, and that the next Aſſociation will meet at the houſe of the Revd. A. R. Robins at Norfolk in the county of Litchfield, on the 3d Tueſday of June, 1800, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

JOHN RODGERS,
ROBERT FINLEY.

The Revd Doctor Jonathan Edwards the Revd. Aſa Hylliar and Jonathan Freeman, were appointed delegates fcom this Aſſembly to the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, to meet at the houſe of the Revd. Mr. Robins at Norfolk on the 3d Tueſday of June next. Certificates of their appointment were ordered to be made out, ſigned by the moderator and atteſted by the ſtated clerk.

The Aſſembly proceeded to elect a commmittee to meet at Stanford in Connecticut, on the 2nd Tueſday of June next, at 3 o'clock P. M. and join with a committee of the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, in examining certain alterations and additions to Doctor Watts' verſion of the pſalms made by the Revd. Doctor Timothy Dwight, whereupon the Revd. Doctors John Rodgers and Jonathan Edwards the Revd. Aſa Hylliar and Jonathan Freeman, were elected a committee for the purpoſe aforeſaid, and the ſaid committee of this Aſſembly were and they hereby are directed to pay all due attention to the ſubject, committed to them in conjunction with their brethren, and report the reſult to the next General Aſſembly.

An overture was made by the Preſbytery of Baltimore, to repeal the act of the Aſſembly made in the year 1798, reſpecting the admiſſion of foreign miniſters in the following words.

" The regulations respecting the reception of foreign ministers and licentiates adopted by the General Assembly of 1798, were read and considered. Resolved, that the said regulations are a breach of the 6th section of the 11th chapter of the constitution, being established as standing rules obligatory on the churches without the consent and approbation of a majority of the Presbyteries—even without their having been consulted on the subject. It is therefore overtured that the said regulations aforesaid be dismissed until constitutionally adopted, which measure is deemed advisable.—

Signed

JAMES MUIR, *Moderator.*

It was then moved and seconded, that the request contained in the overture from the Presbytery of Baltimore be not granted, in as much as this Assembly consider the act referred to in said overture as entirely constitutional. After sometime spent in discussing the subject, the Assembly adjourned.

The Assembly having again resumed the consideration of the overture from Baltimore Presbytery, after full deliberation thereon, the question was taken and determined in the negative.

On motion, resolved, that Doctors Smith, Rodgers, M'Whortor, Green, Muir, Revd. Messrs. Irwin, Wilson of South-Carolina Linn, Hoge and King, with Doctor Elmer, and Messrs. Watson and Cooke elders, be a committee to consider the regulation made by the Assembly in the year 1798, respecting the introduction of foreign ministers, and to report such modifications and amendments of the same as may appear conducive to the general interests of the church.

The draught of certain regulations respecting the admission of foreign ministers and licentiates, reported by the committee appointed for that purpose was again read, and having been fully considered and amended, was adopted by a large majority and is as follows, viz.

" When any minister or licentiate from Europe, shall come into this country and desire to become connected with the Presbyterian church in the United States, he may apply to any committee appointed to direct the services of travelling ministers and candidates; which committee shall inspect his credentials and by examination or otherwise, endeavor to ascertain his soundness in the faith and experimental acquaintance with religion, his attainments in divinity and literature, his moral and religious character and approbation of our public standard of doctrine and discipline; if the result shall be such as to encourage further trial, said committee may give him appointments to supply and recommend him to the churches, till the next meeting of the Presbytery to which said committee belongs. It shall then become the duty of such minister or licentiate to apply to that Presbytery, or to any other in whose

bounds he may incline to labour, provided always that he make his application to the Preſbytery at their firſt meeting after his coming within their bounds: And alſo that immediately on coming within the bounds of any Preſbytery he apply to their committee, to judge of his certificate of approbation and, if they think it expedient, to make him appointments; or if it ſhall be more convenient, the application may be made to the Preſbytery in the firſt inſtance, but it ſhall be deemed irregular for any foreign miniſter or licentiate to preach in any vacant church till he ſhall have obtained the approbation of ſome Preſbytery or committee of Preſbytery in manner aforeſaid. The Preſbytery to which ſuch miniſter or licentiate may apply, ſhall carefully examine his credentials, and not ſuſtain a mere certificate of good ſtanding, unleſs corroborated by ſuch private letters or other collateral teſtimony as ſhall fully ſatisfy them as to the authenticity and ſufficiency of his teſtimonials. After inſpecting any evidences of his literary acquirements which may be laid before them, the Preſbytery ſhall enter into a free converſation with him, in order to diſcover his ſoundneſs in the faith, and experimental acquaintance with religion. If they ſhall obtain ſatisfaction on theſe ſeveral articles, they ſhall proceed to examine him on the learned languages, the arts, ſciences, theology, church hiſtory and government, nor ſhall they receive him, unleſs he ſhall appear to have made ſuch attainments in theſe ſeveral branches, as are required of thoſe who receive their education or paſs their trials among ourſelves. But if upon the whole he appear to be a perſon worthy of encouragement and who promiſes uſefulneſs in the church they ſhall receive him as a miniſter or candidate on probation, he firſt adopting our ſtandards of doctrine and diſcipline, and promiſing ſubjection to the Preſbytery in the Lord. During this ſtate of probation, he may preach the goſpel where regularly called, either as a ſtated or occaſional ſupply, and if an ordained miniſter, perform every part of the miniſterial functions, except that he may not vote in any judicatory, or accept a call for ſettlement.

If the foreigner who ſhall apply to any committee or Preſbytery as aforeſaid be an ordained miniſter, ſuch committee and Preſbytery may, at their diſcretion, diſpenſe with the ſpecial examination on literature in this act preſcribed, provided he ſhall exhibit ſatisfactory evidence that he has received ſuch education and made ſuch progreſs in languages, arts and ſciences, as are required by the conſtitution of our church as qualifications for the goſpel miniſtry, but in all other reſpects the examination ſhall be the ſame as in the caſe of a licentiate.

If from proſpects of ſettlement or of greater uſefulneſs a miniſter or licentiate under probation in any Preſbytery, ſhall wiſh to move into the bounds of another, he ſhall receive a diſmiſſion containing a certificate of his ſtanding and character from the Preſbytery under whoſe care he ſhall have been, which certificate ſhall entitle him to

the ſame ſtanding in the Preſbytery into whoſe bounds he ſhall move, except that from the time of his coming under the care of this latter Preſbytery, a whole year ſhall elapſe before they come to a final judgment reſpecting his reception.

When any foreign miniſter or licentiate received on certificate, or purſuant to trials in any Preſbytery ſhall have reſided generally and preached within their bounds and under their direction for at leaſt one year, they ſhall cauſe him to preach before them (if they judge it expedient) and taking into conſideration as well the evidence derived from their former trials, as that which may ariſe from his acceptance in the churches, his prudence, gravity and godly converſation, ſhall from the combined evidence of the whole, determine either to receive him, to reject him or to hold him under further probation. In caſe of receiving him at that, or any ſubſequent period the Preſbytery ſhall report the ſame to their Synod at its next meeting, together with all the certificates and other teſtimony on which they received him, or if it ſhall be more convenient this report may be made to the General Aſſembly.

The ſaid Aſſembly or Synod (as the caſe may be) ſhall then enquire into the proceedings of the Preſbytery in the affair, and if they find them to have been irregular or deficient, they ſhall recommit them to the Preſbytery in order to a more regular and perfect proceſs. But if the proceedings had in the Preſbytery appear to have been conformable to this regulation, they ſhall carefully examine all the papers laid before them by the Preſbytery or which ſhall be exhibited by the party concerned, and conſidering their credibility and ſufficiency, come to a final judgment, either to receive him into the Preſbyterian body agreeably to his ſtanding, or to reject him.

In order however to facilitate the ſettlement of foreign miniſters as ſoon as may conſiſt with the purity and order of the church, it is further ordained, that if the proper Synod or the General Aſſembly are not to meet within three months after that meeting of a Preſbytery at which a foreign miniſter on probation is expected to be received, the Preſbytery may (if they ſee cauſe) lay his teſtimonials before that meeting of the Aſſembly or Synod which ſhall be held next before ſaid meeting of the Preſbytery. If this Aſſembly or Synod ſhall approve the teſtimonials, they ſhall give the Preſbytery ſuch information and direction as the caſe may require, and remit the ſame to them for final iſſue.

In all other caſes it ſhall be deemed irregular for any Synod or General Aſſembly to receive a foreign miniſter or licentiate, until he ſhall have paſſed his period of probation and been received and reported by ſome Preſbytery in manner aforeſaid. No miniſter or licentiate, after being rejected by one Preſbytery ſhall be received by another, or if received through miſtake or otherwiſe, he ſhall no

longer be countenanced or employed after the impoſition is diſcovered.

If however any miniſter or licentiate ſhall think himſelf aggrieved by the ſentence of any Preſbytery, he ſhall have a right to carry the matter by complaint to the proper Synod, or to the next General Aſſembly, giving notice thereof to the Preſbytery during the meeting at which the ſentence was pronounced, or at the meeting next following.

Theſe regulations and proviſions relative to the reception of foreign miniſters and licentiates are to be conſidered as coming in place of all that have heretofore been eſtabliſhed on this ſubject, and all judicatures and individuals under the care of the Aſſembly, are to regard them accordingly.

The committee appointed to prepare a report on the narratives of the miſſionaries, beg leave to report—

That the miſſionaries proceeded on the reſpective tours preſcribed by the laſt General Aſſembly and agreeably to their inſtructions. It appears from their journals that your miſſioners have been very diligent and laborious in diſcharging their duty. They have preached the goſpel in ſeaſon and out of ſeaſon, and frequently to two, three and four hundred people. They have viſited many families, baptized a great number of children and ſome adults and ſeveral times adminiſtered the Lords Supper. The ſucceſs of the miſſionary labours is greatly on the increaſe. God is ſhaking the valley of dry bones on the frontiers, a ſpiritual reſurrection is there taking place. There is a ſerious and ſolemn attention to the great realities of religion in many and in different parts of that country. Some hundreds of people have in a ſhort ſpace of time been received into the communion of the church, and among theſe ſeveral who were formerly avowed infidels and univerſaliſts.

Theſe joyful accounts are corroborated by a number of letters from the frontier ſettlements, in which the inhabitants expreſs the moſt unfeigned gratitude to the Aſſembly for ſending them miſſionaries, and ardently pray the continuance of miſſionaries among them.

Theſe accounts from the frontiers your committee are purſuaded will excite the love, animate the zeal, and induce all pious chriſtians among us, who have been in the habit of contributing towards the ſupport of the goſpel in our frontier ſettlements to continue their contributions. Only ten years have elapſed ſince the firſt miſſionaries were ſent out by this Aſſembly. Since that period ſome thouſands of families have ſettled on the frontier who are rapidly forming into ſocieties in order to have the goſpel preached and its ordinances ſtatedly adminiſtered among them. Now is the time they need aſſiſtance. Their eyes are turned and their applications addreſſed to this Aſſembly as an inſtrument in the hands of the divine Redeemer to afford them the neceſſary aſſiſtance.

Your committee conclude by obſerving that in their opinion the above account ſhould be ſent down to the churches in your printed extracts, as a ſufficient argument to prevail with them to raiſe collections to enable the Aſſembly to purſue and extend the great and glorious work they have begun and carried on with ſuch abundant ſucceſs.

The committee appointed to arrange the miſſionary buſineſs, made a report which was approved and adopted and is as follows, viz.

That they recommend Revd. Robert Logan a miſſionary of laſt year, to be again appointed to itinerate for three months or more, taking the ſame route and ſtopping at the ſame places as he did laſt ſummer, proceeding as far as the Cayuga Lake, Onondago County.—As the Aſſembly have received from ſeveral congregations, in that tract, communications by letters, giving the moſt agreeable account of Mr. Logan s uſefulneſs deſcribing the bleſſed effects of a preached goſpel in that quarter, and earneſtly ſoliciting a continuance of the attention of the Aſſembly, offering to pay a conſiderable ſhare of the expence attending ſuch a miſſion. It is thought adviſable that Mr. Logan ſhould ſet out about the firſt of September.

The committee adviſe that the Revd. Jonathan Freeman, be appointed a miſſionary for four months, to ſet out on the firſt day of July and to take the road preſcribed to Mr. Logan laſt year, beginning at Tioga Point, or where he may think it moſt uſeful. Your committee recommend the appointment of the Revd. Robert H. Chapman a miſſionary for two months, to commence as ſoon as poſſible, and that his rout begin at the hither part of the Beech Woods and to be continued on to Newtown, at which place he is not to ſpend more than two weeks until he return to the ſame rout.

Your committee alſo recommend the appointment of the Revd. John Lindſley on a miſſion of four months, to commence the firſt of June next at Delhi on the Delaware, thence to the Cookhouſe, Acquaga, Chanango, Owego, Ovid, Romulus and Hector, and that he return by the ſame route as far as he may find it convenient.

Alſo the appointment of the Revd. William Boyd of New-Brunſwick Preſbytery for two months of the enſuing ſummer, viz. June and July and that he ſhould accompany Mr. Lindſley, as far as is thought expedient.

Alſo Revd. Mathew L. Perine a licentiate under the care of New-Brunſwick Preſbytery. His miſſion to continue for four months, beginning in June or July at Wilkſbarre thence to Lacquawany. Blackwalnut-Bottom, Wioluſing, Wyſox, Sheſhequin, the Painted Poſt, Lindſley Town, Bath, and thence through the Genneſſee country, to the military lands, to Fort Stanwick and

Fort Schuyler, then return down the Unadilla through the Beech-Woods.

Your committee further recommend that the Revd. James Hall of the Preſbytery of Concord, in the Synod of the Carolinas, be appointed a miſſionary to the Natches for ſeveral months, to commence about the firſt of October next. For the ſupport of this miſſionary, it is expected the Synod of the Carolinas will make ſome proviſion, and alſo take meaſures for ſupplying his pulpit in his abſence.

From the account given to us from the commiſſion of the Synod of Virginia weſt of the mountains, your committee recommend, that they be allowed to appoint one or more catechiſts to labour among the Indians, if it is thought expedient.

They alſo recommend that the miſſionaries in preparing their reports for the Aſſembly be enjoined to abridge from their larger journals a ſhort and ſuccinct account of ſuch matters as have hitherto been required of them, and to read this only to the Aſſembly unleſs the other is called for.

Your committee alſo adviſe that Doctors Rodgers and M'Whortor be a committee, to appoint ſupplies for the pulpit of the Revd. Jedediah Chapman during two months of his miſſion, and for Mr. Boyd that Mr. Clark and Doctor Smith be the committee.

Moreover, that each miſſionary be allowed one month's pay in advance. The committee adviſe that the compenſation allowed to the miſſionaries during the preſent year be $33\frac{1}{3}$ dollars per month, they accounting to the General Aſſembly for all monies which they may receive.

And whereas copies of the Confeſſion of Faith, directed to be forwarded to the weſtern frontiers by the laſt Aſſemby, were not ſent by reaſon of the death of Mr. John M'Culloch to whom they were intruſted, your committee recommend that the order of laſt year be renewed, and that the treaſurer of the corporation be directed to forward them accordingly.

The committee appointed to draught inſtructions for a ſtated miſſionary on the north-weſtern frontiers, reported that in the opinion of your committee the ſtated miſſionary be employed ſix months in each year, for four years in the ſervice of the Aſſembly, unleſs it ſhall hereafter appear proper, and ſhall be mutually agreeable to the Aſſembly and the ſtated miſſionary that the time be ſhorter, and that he be allowed by the Aſſembly three hundred and twenty five dollars per year for ſuch ſervice.

That he make a tour annually through the frontier ſettlements preaching the word, adminiſtering the ſacraments, ordaining elders and deacons, and adjuſting as far as conveniently may be done, all ſuch concerns as tend to prepare the way for the regular ſettlement of the goſpel miniſtry in thoſe parts.

That for aiding the annual miſſionaries ſent by the Aſſembly

he arrange the routs and fix on the places of preaching in ſuch orderly way, that the miſſionaries when on their tours may employ their time to the greateſt advantage, and the ſettlements know with greater certainty when and where they are to attend to the miniſtrations of the goſpel miſſionaries.

That he make a report annually to the Aſſembly, of the manner in which he hath fulfilled the objects of his appointment alſo of the whole ſtate of the frontier country, with regard to the number of organized churches, diſtinguiſhing between ſuch as are able and willing to ſupport a miniſter in a ſingle or united capacity, and ſuch as are not able. of the proſpects of further organizing churches, the general diſpoſition of the frontier inhabitants to receive the word, and encourage the labours of the miſſionaries, and of the general ſtate of religion through the frontiers—And that he account to the Aſſembly for all ſuch monies as he ſhall receive as miſſionary of the Aſſembly.

That he be a common medium of information to receive ſuch applications for aid and counſel from the General Aſſembly as may be made by the frontier ſettlements, or the Indian tribes, and tranſmit the ſame to the Aſſembly, and alſo to communicate to the ſettlements and to the Indian tribes ſuch information as the Aſſembly may wiſh to communicate—

On motion reſolved that the above report be accepted, and that the Revd. Jedediah Chapman, be employed as the ſtated miſſionary of the Aſſembly to the frontiers; that he ſet out for that country as ſoon as convenient and take up his reſidence there in ſome one place the moſt ſuitable for accompliſhing the views of the Aſſembly.

The above report was read to Mr. Chapman and he declared his acceptance of the appointment on the conditions ſtated in the report.

A communication was made to the Aſſembly by the Aſſociate Reformed Synod, whereby it appeared that ſaid Synod have not agreed to the plan for friendly intercourſe between that Synod, the General Synod of the reformed Dutch church and the General Aſſembly of this church, agreed upon in convention of committees from theſe bodies ſeverally. in June 1798.

Reſolved that this General Aſſembly be diſſolved, and that the next General Aſſembly be required to meet in the firſt Preſbyterian church in the city of Philadelphia on the third Thurſday of May, in the year of our Lord 1801, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Whereupon the Moderator diſſolved the Aſſembly, agreeably to the form preſcribed in the conſtitution, and concluded with prayer.

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

United States of America,

IN THE YEAR 1801.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY R. AITKEN, N°. 22,
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1801.

ACTS, &c.

May 21st, 1801.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the City of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock A. M. and was opened with a sermon by the Revd. Joseph Clark, the Moderator of the last Assembly, from Matt. xxviii. 18, 19, 20. *And Jesus came, and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world.*

After prayer the commissions were read, when it appeared that the following persons were duly appointed commissioners to this Assembly, viz.

1. Of the Presbytery of Albany, the Revd. Dr. Jonathan Edwards, the Revd. Peter Fish, and Mr. Isaac Hutton, Elder.

2. Of the Presbytery of Hudson, the Revd. Nathan Kerr, and Jonathan Freeman; Elder, Dr. Jonathan Sweezy.

3. Of the Presbytery of Long Island, the Rev. David S. Bogart, and Herman Dagget.

4. Of the Presbytery of New York, the Revd. Dr. John M'Knight, Samuel Miller, Asa Hillyer, and Amzi Armstrong; Elders, Messrs. Preserve Riggs, Ephraim Sayre, Benjamin Egbert, and John Bingham.

5. Of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, the Revd. Dr. John Woodhull, Joseph Clark, William Boyd, and Joseph Rue; Elders, Messrs. John Bayard, Thomas Henderson, David Bishop, and John Muirhead.

6. Of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, the Revd. Nathanael Irwin, James Boyd, Dr. Ashbel Green, and William Latta;

Elders, Meſſrs. Hugh Henry, Ebenezer Hazard, David Cloyd, and Joſeph Brewſter.

7. Of the Preſbytery of New Caſtle, the Revd. John E. Latta, John Collins, and William Arthur; Elders, Meſſrs. Ebenezer Rothwell, and George M'Ilwaine.

8. Of the Preſbytery of Carliſle, the Revd. Robert Cathcart, Nathanael R. Snowden, John Linn, and Dr. Robert Cooper; Elder, Mr. Moſes Gilmore.

9. Of the Preſbytery of Lewis, the Revd. John B. Slemons; Elder, Mr. John Moore.

10. Of the Preſbytery of Baltimore, the Revd. Dr. Patrick Alliſon; Elder, Mr. Andrew Jameſon.

11. Of the Preſbytery of Huntingdon, the Revd. John B. Patterſon.

12. Of the Preſbytery of Wincheſter, the Revd. Naſh Le Grand.

13. Of the Preſbytery of Redſtone, the Revd. Joſeph Henderſon, and John Black.

14. Of the Preſbytery of Ohio, the Revd. John M'Millan, John Brice, John Watſon, and William Wood.

15. Of the Preſbytery of Lexington, the Revd. Robert Logan.

16. Of the Preſbytery of Hanover, the Revd. Archibald Alexander.

17. Of the firſt Preſbytery of South Carolina, the Revd. James White Stevenſon.

The Revd. Samuel Blatchford, paſtor of the church of Stratfield, in the State of Connecticut, exhibited a certificate of his appointment, as a delegate from the General Aſſociation of Connecticut to this Aſſembly; which being read and approved, he took his ſeat accordingly.

The Aſſembly proceeded to the choice of a Moderator and Clerks when the Revd. Nathanael Irwin was choſen Moderator, and the Revd. Robert Cathcart and Samuel Miller were choſen Clerks.

The Revd. Benjamin Grigſby of the Preſbytery of Lexington, the Revd. Moſes Hoge, of the Preſbytery of Wincheſter, and Mr. William Montgomery, a ruling Elder of the Preſbytery of Huntingdon, produced their commiſſions reſpectively as delegates to this Aſſembly; which being read were approved, and they took their ſeats accordingly.

The delegates appointed by the laſt Aſſembly to attend the General Aſſociation of the State of Connecticut, made their report, which was read as follows, viz.

" The delegates from the General Assembly to the General Association of Connecticut, report, that they have attended according to appointment through the whole course of the sessions of the General Association. That besides the business peculiar to the churches of Connecticut, the General Association appointed a committee to confer with a committee that may be appointed by the General Assembly, on measures which may promote union among the inhabitants of the new settlements and the missionaries to those settlements, as appears by the inclosed paper. The General Association also voted that instructions be given by the trustees of the Missionary Society, to their missionaries, to avoid every thing that may interupt peace in the new settlements among those that are attached to the presbyterian and congregational forms of government.

The Association established the following regulations respecting the reception of foreign ministers into their churches: That said ministers shall exhibit proper credentials of their good character and authority to preach the gospel, before they are permitted to preach in their pulpits—That they be examined as to their orthodoxy and literature, before they are introduced into vacancies—That they shall continue for a year under the care of one of their Associations, or somebody in connection with the General Association, and then go through the usual trials before they be installed or ordained.

The General Association have appointed the Revd. Seth Williston as a stated missionary, to be employed one half of his time at Union, in the State of New York, and the other half as an itinerant preacher in the adjacent parts.

In consequence of an enquiry, very agreeble accounts were received of the revival of religion in various parts of the State, and of the general peace of the churches.

They appointed as delegates to the next General Assembly, the Revd. John Smally, Levi Hart, and Samuel Blatchford.

The next General Association is to meet at Litchfield, at the house of the Revd. Daniel Huntington, on the third Tuesday of June next, at 11 o'clock A. M.

Your delegates farther report, that they were received and treated with exceeding great cordiality and christian friendship, and that the association expressed high satisfaction with the connection subsisting between themselves and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, and believed that it would have a happy tendency to promote the interest of the Redeemer's kingdom.

JONATHAN EDWARDS,
ASA HILLYER,
JONATHAN FREEMAN."

A communication was read from the General Aſſociation of the State of Connecticut, appointing a committee to confer with a committee of the Preſbyterian Church, to conſider the meaſures proper to be adopted by the General Aſſociation of the General Aſſembly, for eſtabliſhing an uniform ſyſtem of church government, between the inhabitants of the new ſettlements who are attached to the Preſbyterian form of government and thoſe who prefer the congregational form.

Ordered that the ſaid communication lie on the table.

The Revd. Doctors Edwards, M'Knight and Woodhull, the Revd. Mr. Blatchford and Mr. Hutton were appointed a committee, to conſider and digeſt a plan of government for the churches in the new ſettlements, agreeably to the propoſal of the General Aſſociation of Connecticut, and report the ſame as ſoon as convenient.

The report of the committee appointed to conſider and digeſt a plan of government for the churches in the new ſettlements, was taken up and conſidered, and after mature deliberation on the ſame, approved, as follows:

" Regulations adopted by the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian Church in America, and by the General Aſſociation of the State of Connecticut (provided ſaid Aſſociation agree to them) with a view to prevent alienation and promote union and harmony, in thoſe new ſettlements which are compoſed of inhabitants from theſe bodies.

1ſt. It is ſtrictly enjoined on all their miſſionaries to the new ſettlements, to endeavour, by all proper means, to promote mutual forbearance and accommodation, between thoſe inhabitants of the new ſettlements who hold the preſbyterian and thoſe who hold the congregational form of church government.

2d. If in the new ſettlements, any church of the congregational order ſhall ſettle a miniſter of the preſbyterian order, that church may, if they chooſe, ſtill conduct their diſcipline according to congregational principles, ſettling their difficulties among themſelves, or by a council mutually agreed upon for that purpoſe: But if any difficulty ſhall exiſt between the miniſter and the church or any member of it, it ſhall be referred to the Preſbytery to which the miniſter ſhall belong, provided both parties agree to it, if not, to a council conſiſting of an equal number of preſbyterians and congregationaliſts, agreed upon by both parties.

3d. If a preſbyterian church ſhall ſettle a miniſter of congregational principles, that church may ſtill conduct their diſcipline according to preſbyterian principles, excepting that if a difficulty ariſe between him and his church, or any member of it, the cauſe ſhall be tried by the Aſſociation, to which the ſaid miniſter ſhall

belong, provided both parties agree to it, otherwiſe by a council, one half congregationaliſts and the other half preſbyterians, mutually agreed on by the parties.

4th. If any congregation conſiſt partly of thoſe who hold the congregational form of diſcipline and partly of thoſe who hold the preſbyterian form; we recommend to both parties, that this be no obſtruction, to their uniting in one church and ſettling a miniſter: and that in this caſe, the church chooſe a ſtanding committee from the communicants of ſaid church, whoſe buſineſs it ſhall be, to call to account every member of the church, who ſhall conduct himſelf inconſiſtently with the laws of chriſtianity, and to give judgment on ſuch conduct: and if the perſon condemned by their judgment, be a preſbyterian, he ſhall have liberty, to appeal to the Preſbytery; if a congregationaliſt, he ſhall have liberty to appeal to the body of the male communicants of the church; in the former caſe the determination of the Preſbytery ſhall be final, unleſs the church conſent to a further appeal to the Synod or to the General Aſſembly; and in the latter caſe, if the party condemned ſhall wiſh for a trial by a mutual council, the cauſe ſhall be referred to ſuch council. And provided the ſaid ſtanding committee of any church, ſhall depute one of themſelves to attend the Preſbytery, he may have the ſame right to ſit and act in the Preſbytery, as a ruling elder of the Preſbyterian Church.

On motion reſolved, that an atteſted copy of the above plan be made by the ſtated clerk, and put into the hands of the delegates of this Aſſembly to the General Aſſociation, to be by them laid before that body for their conſideration, and that if it ſhould be approved by them, it go into immedate operation.

The Aſſembly proceeded to make choice of delegates from this body, to the General Aſſociation of Connecticut to meet at Litchfield, on the third Tueſday of January, when the Revd. Doct. M'Knight, the Revd. Archibald Alexander and John B. Linn, were duly choſen, and the ſtated clerk was directed to furniſh them with an atteſted copy of this minute, which ſhall be their commiſſion for attending on the duties of ſaid appointment.

A letter was read from the Revd. Ira Condit, Preſident, and the Revd. Iſaac Labagh and Wilhelmus Etinge, Clerks of the General Synod of the reformed Dutch church, incloſing an extract from the proceedings of that body reſpecting the plan of intercourſe and correſpondence between the General Aſſembly, the Aſſociate reformed Synod, and the ſaid General Synod of the Dutch church, in which ſaid Synod expreſs a reſolution not to concur in the abovementioned plan.

The Preſbyteries of Wincheſter, Hanover and Lexington, agreeably to order reported their opinion, reſpecting the conſtitu-

tional alteration propoſed by the Aſſembly, which opinion was, that the ſaid alteration ought to be made.

The Preſbytery of Newcaſtle reported as their opinion that the ſaid alteration ought not to be made.

The Preſbyteries of New Brunſwick and Ohio reported, that, agreeably to order, they had drawn up hiſtories of their reſpective Preſbyteries, which were produced and laid on the table.

Several other Preſbyteries reported that they had made conſiderable progreſs in compliance with ſaid order—

Ordered, That they proceed to compleat the ſame as ſoon as convenient; and that all the Preſbyteries who have not attended to ſaid order be careful to forward the hiſtories which they were directed to prepare, to the next General Aſſembly.

On motion, reſolved, That the Aſſembly will proceed on Wedneſday morning next to enter into a full and free converſation on the ſtate of religion within their bounds.

The Aſſembly entered into a free converſation on the ſtate of religion, when after having gone through the ſame, Dr. Woodhull, Mr. M'Millan, and Mr. Archibald Alexander, were appointed a committee to draw up a general ſtatement on this ſubject —who, the following day made report, which was read and approved, and is as follows:

The Aſſembly having heard a circumſtantial narrative from almoſt every one of its members, on the ſtate of religion in his own charge and in other places to which his obſervation had extended, are of opinion, that in general the cauſe of religion has been progreſſive, and in ſome places eminently ſo. In ſome places infidelity does not aſſume that bold and threatening aſpect which it did for ſome years paſt, but ſeems to be in ſome meaſure abaſhed and diſpoſed to retire into its former ſtate of concealment. In ſome inſtances avowed and inveterate enemies to chriſtianity have been remarkably converted, and have become to all appearance, ſincere and lively chriſtians.

From many of their churches the General Aſſembly have heard the moſt pleaſing accounts of the ſtate of vital piety. Revivals of a more or leſs general nature, have taken place in many parts, and multitudes have been added to the church. In the northern and eaſtern Preſbyteries, there appears in ſeveral congregations, a ſerious attention to the great things of religion; and its intereſts appear evidently to be advancing. In ſeveral of their churches "times of refreſhing from the preſence of the Lord" have been experienced. Sinners have been brought to repentance, and ſaints have been comforted and edified. And theſe pleaſing appearances in ſome inſtances ſtill continue. From the weſt the Aſſembly have received intelligence of the moſt intereſting nature. On

the borders of Kentucky and Tenneſſe, the influences of the Spirit of God ſeem to have been manifeſted in a very extraordinary manner. Many circumſtances attending this work are unuſual: And though it is probable that ſome irregularities may have taken place; yet, from the information which the Aſſembly have received, they cannot but exceedingly rejoice in the abundant evidence given them that God has viſited that people, and poured out his Spirit remarkably upon them.

In the middle and ſouthern Preſbyteries appearances are not ſo encouraging. For though in ſome of their churches religion flouriſhes, yet in many others, the wiſe and fooliſh virgins are ſlumbering together; iniquity abounds and the love of many waxes cold. Ignorance, vice and infidelity, do, in many parts of our country, ſtill prevail.

The new ſettlements on our frontiers appear very deſirous to have the goſpel preached amongſt them, and our miſſionaries who have viſited them do not appear to have laboured without ſucceſs. Good impreſſions have, not unfrequently, been made, and churches are rapidly forming, which will ſoon need ſettled paſtors.

The intelligence which the Aſſembly have received from the heathen tribes is very pleaſing, viz.

That there is amongſt them a willingneſs, yea an ardent deſire, to have the goſpel preached to them: their prejudices ſeem to be removed, and many important obſtacles are ſurmounted. Some of their chief men have offered to commit their ſons to Preſbyteries and Miſſionary Societies, in order that they may be inſtructed, not only in the arts of civilized life, but alſo in the principles of the chriſtian religion.

The proſpect of the converſion of the Indians is now more flattering than it has ever been before. The wilderneſs already begins to bud, and it is hoped will ſoon bloſſom like the roſe. The ſolitary cottage of the wandering ſavage will, the Aſſembly truſt, be ſoon gladdened by the reception of the glorious Redeemer, with whom there is no difference between the Jew and Greek, between the barbarous and refined; for he is the "Saviour of all men," and the "propitiation not only for our ſins, but for the ſins of the whole world."

The committee appointed to prepare a general ſtatement as the reſult of the reports made by the agent of the Aſſembly for ſoliciting donations, made a report, which was read and approved as follows:

"The committee appointed to draught a general ſtatement as the reſult of the reports of the agents for ſoliciting donations, and propoſe the proper compenſation to be made to the agents employed in this buſineſs:

REPORT—

That they have examined the accounts of the agents, and discover no errors therein.

That the amount of subscriptions procured and reported, is,

	Dls. Cts.		*Dls. Cts.*
By Mr. Clark,	6869 47;	whereof is uncollected,	523 25
Dr. Green,	2124 70;	Do.	1024 80
Dr. Tennent,	1476 11½;	Do.	37
Mr. Cathcart,	1889 64;	whereof the whole has been collected.	
Whole amount,	12,359 92½	Uncollected,	1515 4

In addition to the above sum mentioned as being uncollected, Mr. Clark states that there are several sums (due from Springfield, Westfield, New Providence, Morristown, Mendham, Allentown and Boundbrook) which are uncollected, but as there has been no final settlement of their subscriptions and he is not in possession of the lists, the amount uncollected from those churches cannot now be ascertained.

The compensations to your agents are to be deducted from the subscriptions which have been collected. In considering these, your committee took into their view the distance travelled by the agents respectively, the nature of the country through which they travelled, whereby their labour would be encreased, or otherwise, the expence incident to different routs, and other circumstances; and upon the whole, are of opinion that the following allowances ought to be made to the agents, in full for their time, services and expences, viz.

	Dls. Cts.	*Dls. Cts.*
To Mr. Clark, - - -		250 0
Mr. Cathcart, - -	150 0	
Deduct charged by him for his expences and deducted from his account of collections, - -	65 63	
Balance to be paid Mr. Cathcart.		84 37
To Dr. Tennent, - -	100 0	
Deduct his expences being deducted by him from his account of collections, - - -	35 0	
Balance to be paid Dr. Tennent.		65 0
To Dr. Green, - - -		50 0

Upon theſe principles the account will ſtand as follows, viz.

Dr. The Truſtees of the Aſſembly, *Cr.*

	Dls.	Cts.		Dls.	Cts.
To amount of compenſations to the agents,	550	0	By amount of ſubſcriptions,	12,359	92½
To amount of ſubſcriptions uncollected as above,	1585	5	By Ditto of Springfield &c.		
			Balance due the Truſtees.		

The committee would do injuſtice both to the merits of the agents, and their own feelings, were they not to add, that from the accounts and reports laid before them, it appears evidently that the gentlemen to whom the buſineſs of procuring ſubſcriptions was committed, have proſecuted it with ſuch commendable attention, diligence and zeal as, beſides the pecuniary allowance propoſed, juſtly entitle them to a reward more grateful to generous minds—the thanks of this Aſſembly."

June 1, 1801.

The report of the committee to prepare a ſtatement from the agents of the laſt year and to ſettle the compenſations of the ſame, was again taken up and reconſidered, two thirds of the Aſſembly agreeing to it; when the farther ſum of one hundred dollars was added to the compenſation of Mr. Clark.

On motion, reſolved, That the ſtated Clerk and Treaſurer of the Aſſembly, with Mr. Hazard, be a committee to add to the printed extracts ſuch ſtatements of the ſubſcriptions lately received, as the materials in their hands may enable them to make, and they may judge proper.

A LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

For goſpelizing the Indians, and for other pious uſes, proposed by the General Aſſembly; ſo far as returns have been received.

	Dolls.	Cts.	
New York,	2276	87	
Newark,	642	31	
Elizabethtown,	316	60	
Orange Dale,	123		
Connecticut Farms,	114	74	
Springfield,	120	60	
Weſtfield,	68	75	
New Providence,	27		
Morriſtown,	105		
Carried over.			3,794 87

	Dolls.	Cts.	
Brought forward,			3,794 87
Mendum,	130		
Hanover,	17	75	
South Hanover,	109	14	
Raway,	22	25	
Woodbridge,	124		
Metuchen,	200		
Lamington,	261	50	
Baſkenridge,	134	25	
Boundbrook,	145	5	
New Brunſwick,	329	25	
Kingſton,	132	50	
Princeton,	287	90	
Students of New Jerſey College,	151		
Maidenhead,	75	25	
Trenton,	230	75	
Trenton 1ſt Church,	70	20	
Pennington,	111		
Nottingham,	73		
Allentown,	77	56	
Cranberry,	235	50	
Freehold,	107		
Shrewſbury,	49	50	
Middletown Point,	41	50	
Congregations under the care of the Revd. Dr. Tennent,	104	50	
Newton and Benſalem,	24	4	
Philadelphia,			
1ſt Preſbyterian Church, 200			
2d Do. Do. 1396	1896		
3d Do. Do. 300			
Lancaſter,	161		
Donnegal,	34	50	
York and Hopewell,	114	25	
Carliſle,	111	20	
Sherman's Valley,	70		
Upper Connecocheague	67	20	
Marſh Creek,	65		
Lower Do.	46	62	
Big Spring,	41	50	
Monaghan and Silver Spring,	43		
Rocky Spring,	42	50	
Middle Spring,	37	80	
Carried over,			9,769 83

	Dolls.	Cts.	
Brought forward,			9,769 83
Tuſcarora, &c.	21		
Piny Creek,	17	98	
Harriſburgh,	16	50	
Chamberſburgh,	15		
Lower Cannachochy,	5		
Hanover,	10		
Wilmington, (Del.)			
1ſt Preſbyterian Church, 100	138		
2d Do. Do. 38			
New Caſtle,	90		
Chriſtiana Bridge,	56	37	
St George's,	113	50	
Pencader,	45	50	
Sundry places,	28		
Dover and its vicinity,	110	9	
Kent and Suſſex,	31		
Somerſet and Do.	326	35	
Somerſet,	101	62½	
Worceſter,	231	18	
St. George's Hundred,	20		
Other places in Delaware,	80		
Baltimore City,	536		
Annapolis,	109	75	
City of Waſhington,	109	6	
Alexandria,	103	50	
Frederick,	61	28	
Georgetown,	50		
A Gentleman from Cape May,	4	66	
A Gentleman of the Proteſtant Epiſcopal Church, in South Carolina,	100		
Donations from ſundry individuals,	100		
			2,590 9½
			12,359 92½

The committee appointed to enquire of the Treaſurer of the General Aſſembly what had been done with reſpect to certain copies of the Confeſſions of Faith ordered to be ſent by him to the frontier ſettlements, reported that it appears that ſaid books have been diſpoſed of agreeably to order, viz.—100 copies of the Confeſſion of Faith, and 50 copies of the printed extracts of the Aſſembly's proceedings, were ſent to James Hathaway, Eſq. at Fort Stanwix: The ſame number of Confeſſions and extracts to Meſſrs.

Evans and Gordon, at Geneva: 50 copies of the Confeſſion of Faith and 30 of the printed extracts. to Dr. John Hopkins, at Tioga Point: The ſame number of each to Matthias Hollenback, Eſq. of Wilkeſbarre: and 40 copies of the extracts to the Revd. Mr. Perine: That ſome of the ſaid copies have been received by the perſons to whom they were ſent, and it is uncertain whether the others have been received or not.

The Aſſembly reſumed the conſideration of the communication from the Truſtees of the General Aſſembly, and having gone through the ſame, thereupon reſolved,

1. That the monies obtained in conſequence of the ſyſtem adopted by the Aſſembly of the laſt year, for ſoliciting contributions for the ſupport of miſſionaries, and for other objects ſpecified in their act, and all ſuch monies as may be hereafter received for the ſame objects, (except the cuſtomary annual collections, which it is hoped will ſtill continue to be made as uſual) be regarded as a capital ſtock, which ſhall, at no time, be broken in upon or diminiſhed; and that it be veſted agreeably to a recommendation herein after made, in ſecure and permanent funds.

2. That the intereſt only ariſing from the capital, together with the annual collections, and other donations, made with the expreſs deſign of their being expended within the year, be employed in ſupporting miſſionaries, in propagating the goſpel among the Indians, inſtructing the black people, and in purchaſing pious books to be diſtributed among the poor, or in maintaining, when the Aſſembly ſhall think themſelves competent to the object, Theological Schools, and for ſuch other pious and benevolent purpoſes as may hereafter be deemed expedient.

3. That for farther augmenting the funds of the corporation, a foundation for which is already ſo happily laid, it is hereby earneſtly recommended to the ſeveral Preſbyteries under the care of the Aſſembly, except where agents are appointed by the Aſſembly, to take effectual order, by appointing agents or otherwiſe as to them ſhall ſeem moſt expedient, for obtaining from all the congregations within their bounds, whether vacant or ſupplied with paſtors, and as far as poſſible from each perſon belonging to our communion, as well as from perſons belonging to other denominations who may be diſpoſed to favour the objects contemplated, (except thoſe who have already contributed) ſuch voluntary contributions as God may put into their hearts to make; and of their fidelity and ſucceſs herein to render an account to the next General Aſſembly. And in addition to the arrangement here ſpecified, this Aſſembly determine to appoint an agent or agents to ſolicit donations in places where the order of our church is not fully eſtabliſhed, or where there is a proſpect of obtaining aid to funds appropriated

to objects so important to the interests of religion and good morals, as those to which the funds contemplated are destined. And that it be referred to the Synod of Virginia, and the Synod of the Carolinas, to consider whether it be most adviseable that the missionary business, as it has respect to the Synod of the Carolinas, and the Synod of Virginia, be conducted in future in the manner in which it has been for some time past, or whether it would not be more adviseable that their funds should be put into those of the General Assembly, and the missionary business in those parts wholly managed by them, and that the said Synods report on this subject to the next Assembly.

4. That, in order to encourage farther contributions for the pious ends heretofore mentioned, and to satisfy the public mind with regard to the wise and faithful application of the monies already obtained, the Assembly will publish yearly, along with their printed extracts, a full and particular account of all the contributions received, and of all appropriations made.

5. That there be made a purchase of as many cheap and pious books as a due regard to the other objects of the Assembly's funds will admit, with the view of distributing them not only along the frontiers of these States, but also among the poorer classes of people, and the blacks, or wherever it is thought useful: which books shall be given away, or lent, at the discretion of the distributor; and that there be received from Mr. Robert Aitken, towards the discharge of his debt, books to such amount as shall appear proper to the Trustees of the Assembly, who are hereby requested to take proper measures for the distribution of the same.

6. That the funds which are at present in the hands of the corporation be employed principally in encreasing the number of missionaries and extending the blessings of the gospel by their labours through a greater scope of country.

7. That in order to attain one important object of the contributions (the instruction of the blacks,) Mr. John Chavis, a black man of prudence and piety, who has been educated and licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Lexington in Virginia, be employed as a missionary among people of his own colour, until the meeting of the next General Assembly; and that for his better direction in the discharge of duties which are attended with many circumstances of delicacy and difficulty, some prudential instructions be issued to him by the Assembly, governing himself by which, the knowledge of religion among that people may be made more and more to strengthen the order of society: And the Rev. Messrs. Hoge, Alexander, Logan, and Stephenson, were appointed a committee to draught instructions to said John Chavis, and prescribe his route.

8. That the General Aſſembly may be regularly, and as completely as poſſible, poſſeſſed of all the information requiſite to direct their proceedings in the great work of extending religious inſtructions to the uninſtructed parts of our country—Reſolved, that, in place of all other reports required of Preſbyteries reſpecting the articles herein after enumerated, it be enjoined, and it is hereby enjoined on all the Preſbyteries under the care of this General Aſſembly, carefully to inform themſelves, and to inſtruct their delegates to the next General Aſſembly to report to that body, on the following ſubjects:

(1.) Reſpecting the Indian tribes on our frontiers: their apparent diſpoſition for civilization, and for receiving religious inſtruction—what means may have been uſed with them, and the ſucceſs of thoſe means from time to time.

(2.) Reſpecting our frontier ſettlement of white people; giving every information of theſe ſettlements, which may be of uſe to direct in carrying on miſſionary labours amongſt them, pointing out particularly thoſe parts to which religious books ſhould be ſent, for gratuitous diſtribution, and the perſons in or near to thoſe parts, to whoſe care ſaid books ſhould be ſent.

(3.) Reſpecting thoſe parts in the interior of our country, that are in a great degree, or wholly deſtitute of the means of religious inſtruction—giving as familiar a view of ſuch deſtitute portions of our country as may be of any uſe in directing the mode of giving them relief, and the extent of the relief required. Alſo pointing out to what parts, and to what perſons, in or near thoſe parts, religious books ſhould be ſent for gratuitous diſtribution.

(4.) Reſpecting the black people, deſignating particularly, the places where, and the manner in which it would be moſt adviſeable to attempt their inſtruction, by the aid of our public funds.

(5.) That the reſpective Preſbyteries alſo report to the next Aſſembly all ſuch perſons under their care as are proper to be employed, and may be procured to ſerve as miſſionaries to the Indian tribes—to the frontier ſettlements—to the deſtitute portions of the interior: And that they be eſpecially careful to report none for theſe ſervices but thoſe of whoſe meetneſs for the work they have entire ſatisfaction.

The report of the committee of miſſions was again taken up and conſidered, when the following ſtatement and recommendations, as the reſult of the journals read by the miſſionaries, were received and adopted, viz.

That from their journals it appears that the miſſionaries proceeded on the reſpective routes preſcribed to them by the laſt General Aſſembly, and that they have been diligent and laborious in diſcharging the duties of their miſſions—they have preached the goſ-

pel in ſeaſon and out of ſeaſon, and often to ſolemn aſſemblies. They have in ſeveral inſtances, adminiſtered the Lord's ſupper, and baptized numbers of children and ſeveral adults. They have viſited from houſe to houſe, and converſed with families and individuals on ſerious and religious ſubjects. There is a ſolemn and increaſing attention to the great realities of religion, in many parts of the country through which they have travelled. Numbers, ſince the laſt year, have been added to the communion of the church. On the whole, your committee are of opinion that the proſpect of uſefulneſs in proſecuting the miſſionary buſineſs is ſtill increaſing. There are many towns on the frontiers which appear to be able to ſupport the ſtated miniſtrations of the goſpel, among which the following appear to demand particular attention—Wyoming, Newtown, Aurelius, Milton, Homer, Bloomfield, and Charleſtown, each able to ſupport a ſettled paſtor; Bath and Poſt-town, united; Lackawack, in connection with Canaan and Cherry-Ridge; Hartford and Geneſſee, united; Romulus and Waſhington, united; Sachequin and Tioga Point, united.

The country of the Natchez appears to demand the particular attention of the Aſſembly. The miſſionary ſent thither by the laſt Aſſembly, and thoſe who were ſent with him by the Synod of the Carolinas, performed the ſervice to which they were appointed, with great judgment, diligence and ſucceſs; and a door ſeems to be happily opened for publiſhing the true goſpel in a country lately deſtitute of it.

The committee think it of high importance that the miſſion to the ſaid country be continued."*

The committee take the liberty to ſuggeſt the propriety of enjoining upon all the miſſionaries employed by the Aſſembly, to inculcate upon thoſe ſettlements which they viſit, the importance of ſettling the goſpel miniſtry among them, and that they alſo urge upon all the frontier ſettlements, and eſpecially upon thoſe above mentioned, the neceſſity of contributing to the ſupport of thoſe miniſters who are ſent among them by the Aſſembly. The committee would farther recommend, that miſſionaries be inſtructed to enquire particularly after the ſmall ſettlements which, on account of their obſcurity or infancy, may have been hitherto overlooked and neglected by former miſſionaries, and that, unleſs otherwiſe directed by the ſtated miſſionary, they deſignate to themſelves convenient circuits, comprehending ſeveral ſettlements, in which they may ſucceſſively and repeatedly preach and perform other miniſterial duties; and that, in all places where they travel, they ſhall ſpend as much time as poſſible in viſiting from houſe to houſe, and

* See Appendix.

converſing with individuals on the moſt important ſubjects of practical religion."

The Revd. Peter Fiſh, of the Preſbytery of Albany, was appointed a miſſionary for ſix months, in the country of Oneida and its vicinity. The Revd. Robert H. Chapman was appointed a miſſionary, for two months, on the Suſquehannah, from Salem to Saſhequin, incluſive. And the Revd. Jonas Coes was appointed a miſſionary for ſix weeks, on the weſt ſide of Lake Champlain, and ſuch other ſettlements as he may think proper to viſit.

The Revd. Mr. Hillyer was appointed miſſionary on the frontiers, for two or three months; to take that route which Mr. Hillyer, by and with the advice of the ſtated miſſionary, ſhall judge moſt uſeful.

The Revd. Mr. Alexander was appointed a miſſionary for ſix months, in Virginia, and in the State of Georgia, at ſuch time and in ſuch a manner as the ſtate of his health will admit; and he was alſo appointed to ſolicit donations for the uſe of the General Aſſembly.

The Revd. Meſſrs. Logan and Grigſby were appointed miſſionaries for two months, to itinerate through the lower part of Virginia, and alſo to ſolicit donations.

The Revd. Mr. Janeway was appointed a miſſionary for two months, in the Peninſula between the Delaware and Cheſapeake Bays, at diſcretion.

And the Aſſembly recommend to the Preſbytery of New Caſtle, to ſend one or two more miſſionaries into the ſame diſtrict of country, for ſome months during the preſent year; and if poſſible, ſuch miſſionaries as might be likely to ſettle as paſtors of congregations.

The Aſſembly earneſtly recommend it to the Synod of the Carolinas, to ſend one or more miſſionaries to the Natchez, the enſuing fall; and the Aſſembly did engage to aſſiſt in making compenſation for the ſame, if the funds of the Synod ſhould be inadequate for the purpoſe.

Reſolved, that the compenſation to miſſionaries for the preſent year be $33\frac{1}{3}$ dollars per month, and that they account for all the monies received by them.

The commiſſion of the Synod of Virginia, on the weſt ſide of the Alleghany Mountains, reported, that during the laſt year, they ſent out ſix miſſionaries, two to Detroit, who reported favourably of the diſpoſition of the people there to receive the goſpel. They have met with a young Indian, who expreſs'd a great deſire of obtaining learning, whom they brought with them on their return, and who now appears to be ſeriouſly exerciſed about the great concerns of his immortal ſoul.

Two others were ſent to Cornplanter, chief of the Seneca's; he received them kindly, and it is expected that ſome of his young

people will come in during the enſuing ſummer, in order to be inſtructed.

Two others were ſent to the ſettlements on the Muſkingum. In the courſe of the laſt winter the commiſſion opened a ſubſcription, and have a proſpect of obtaining ſomething conſiderable for the ſupport of miſſionaries to preach the goſpel in the frontier ſettlements and among the Indians.

The Synod of the Carolinas reported, that they have ſent two miſſionaries in company with the Revd. James Hall, to the Natchez; and that they have enjoined upon the reſpective Preſbyteries under their care, to make every poſſible exertion to raiſe contributions for the ſupport of theſe miſſionaries.

The Aſſembly proceeded to appoint agents for ſoliciting farther donations for aiding the funds of the corporation, when the Revd. Dr. Cooper and the Revd. Mr. Patterſon were appointed to ſolicit donations in the bounds of the Preſbytery of Huntington, and the Revd Robert Smith was appointed to ſolicit donations for the ſame purpoſe in the State of Georgia.

The Revd. Mr. Bogart was appointed an agent to ſolicit donations for the General Aſſembly, within the bounds of the Preſbytery of Long Iſland.

The Revd. Meſſrs. John B. Linn and Phillip Milledoler, were appointed agents in connection with Dr. Green, to ſolicit farther donations for the General Aſſembly in the city of Philadelphia and parts adjacent, and the Revd. Mr. Irwin to complete the buſineſs of ſoliciting donations in that part of Mr. Clarke's diſtrict which was not gone through by him, and in ſuch other places as Mr. Irwin may judge proper.

A complaint and appeal of the Revd. Thomas Ledlie Birch, againſt certain proceedings of the Preſbytery of Ohio, in the caſe of Mr. Birch, particularly for refuſing to receive him as a member of their body, on the ground of a ſuppoſed want of acquaintance with experimental religion, together with a repreſentation of the congregation of Waſhington in the bounds of ſaid Preſbytery, on the ſame ſubject, was brought in by the committee of bills and overtures. On motion, reſolved, that the Aſſembly will proceed on Monday morning next, to hear ſaid complaint and appeal.

The Aſſembly, according to the reſolution of Friday laſt, proceeded to hear the complaint and appeal of the Revd. Mr. Birch, againſt the Preſbytery of Ohio with reſpect to certain proceedings in his caſe, the parties being heard at full length withdrew.

The Aſſembly reſumed the conſideration of the complaint and appeal of Mr. Birch, when, after mature conſideration of the ſubject, it was on motion reſolved, That no evidence of cenſurable proceedure in the Preſbytery of Ohio, in the caſe of Mr. Birch,

has appeared to this houſe, inaſmuch as there is a diſcretionary power neceſſarily lodged in every Preſbytery to judge of the qualification of thoſe whom they receive, eſpecially with reſpect to experimental religion; but the Aſſembly, for the purpoſe of affording to Mr. Birch every relief which the nature of the caſe admits, did determine, if it is his deſire, to proceed to his examination, agreeably to the rules of the Aſſembly in ſuch caſes made and provided. It was agreed that the ſaid examination be deferred till a future ſeſſion of the Aſſembly.

Mr. Birch having expreſſed a deſire that the Aſſembly would undertake his examination, agreeably to the reſolution of yeſterday; the Aſſembly proceeded to examine Mr. Birch on his experimental acquaintance with religion, when, after a full and free converſation with him on this ſubject, the Aſſembly adjourned.

The conſideration of Mr. Birch's examination was reſumed, when after maturely deliberating on the ſubject it was reſolved, that from the full and free converſation which the Aſſembly have had with Mr. Birch upon his experimental acquaintance with religion, they find no obſtruction againſt any Preſbytery to which he may apply taking him up and proceeding with him agreeably to the rules and regulations in this caſe made and provided.

Whereas it has too frequently happened, that members of this Aſſembly, neglecting their duty and inattentive to the rules of decorum, have abruptly left the Aſſembly and returned home without leave of abſence.

RESOLVED—

That in all ſimilar caſes which ſhall occur in future, it ſhall be the duty of the clerk of this houſe to give notice thereof to the Preſbyteries to which ſuch delinquent members may belong. And That it be recommended to the ſaid Preſbyteries, in their ſettlements with ſuch delinquents, not to allow them any compenſation for ſervices as members of the Aſſembly.

RESOLVED—

That this General Aſſembly be diſſolved, and that the next General Aſſembly be required to meet in the firſt Preſbyterian Church in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Thurſday of May, in the year of our Lord 1802, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon.

Whereupon the moderator diſſolved the Aſſembly. agreeably to the form preſcribed by the conſtitution, and concluded with prayer.

APPENDIX.

[*THE Committee appointed to publish the extracts from the minutes of the General Assembly for the present year, supposing that the readers of them would be much gratified by a sight of the very judicious and sensible Address made by the Missionaries to the Natchez, to the inhabitants of the Mississippi Territory, have thought proper to add it by way of Appendix. Should any think that* evangelical *motives have not been sufficiently suggested in it, they are informed, that the state of society in that country is such, that there are, comparatively, but few of the inhabitants who appear to have just ideas of the moral influence of the Gospel on the human heart, and therefore that such an aadress as the present, was better calculated than one of a different nature, to attract the attention of those to whom it was made, and thus pave the way for the more easy and effectual admission of gospel truth; and that this was assigned by the Missionaries themselves, as the reason why they thus constructed it.*]

An Address

TO THE

Citizens of the Mississippi Territory,

BY THE

MISSIONARIES

FROM THE SOUTHERN STATES.

Friends and Fellow Citizens,

THE united principles of duty and gratitude conspire to bring forward this public expression of the obligations under which we feel ourselves to you for that cordial reception you have given us, and that friendly

and polite attention with which we have been uniformly treated ſince our arrival in this territory.

Theſe obligations have been much enhanced by the number and reſpectability of your committee, lately convened in this place, and the energetic meaſures which they have adopted and recommended to their conſtituents, and which, we hope, under the divine auſpices, will give energy to our miniſtrations.

Under theſe impreſſions, and confiding in your good opinion of our real deſire to promote your beſt intereſts, we hope you will conſider us as engaged in the diſcharge of our miniſterial duty, when we ſuggeſt to you the following conſiderations, and recommend them to your ſerious peruſal.

The experience of all ages has proved, that principles either of honour, patriotiſm or private intereſt, have been too capricious in their nature, as well as too feeble, effectually to promote public utility and ſocial happineſs. Thoſe who have tried principles of philoſophy have not been more ſucceſsful. Hence all governments in civilized nations have made it their buſineſs to inculcate religion on their citizens, as well with a view to the intereſt of the public as to perſonal happineſs.

It would be little better than an inſult on the underſtanding of a people, who make ſuch exertions as are now making in this territory for the propagation of revealed religion, to bring forward to their view proofs of its divine authority.

This, therefore, being granted as an acknowledged principle, we proceed to obſerve, that whatever is conducive to the happineſs of the ſocial ſtate is inculcated in the ſacred ſcriptures.

Let the moſt impartial reaſoner take a view of the moral law, which contains an epitome of thoſe duties which we owe to God and man, and he will acknowledge that if thoſe precepts were made the unerring ſtandard of conduct by every member of ſociety, this would tend to

univerſal happineſs and good order; and would entirely ſupercede the neceſſity of human laws; but let the oppoſite line of conduct be adopted, and the evident conſequences would be diſorder and miſery. It will then follow, that to make the ſacred ſcriptures the rule of conduct is a certain way to enſure ſocial, as well as individual happineſs.

This problem then requires a ſolution, Why is that ſyſtem, obedience to which is ſo eſſentially connected with human happineſs, not more generally obſerved as the rule of conduct? Probably no better reaſon can be aſſigned than want of reverence to its divine author. Were this divine principle duly felt and cultivated, we ſhould love the Lord with all our hearts—and our neighbours as ourſelves. Then would a ſenſe of the divine preſence, of our obligations and reſponſibility to God, be conſtant and powerful motives to deter us from the practice of thoſe crimes which the word of God forbids, and to perform thoſe duties which it enjoins. This is laying a ſolid and permanent foundation for our own happineſs, and as far as the conduct of individuals can have influence, contributing to the public intereſt.

No fact has been more fully demonſtrated, than that human laws are too feeble in their operations, notwithſtanding all that terror which they hold out, to reſtrain the corrupt paſſions of men, and ſuppreſs thoſe crimes againſt which they denounce even capital puniſhment.—For this various reaſons may be aſſigned——want of ability in the rulers to detect crimes, want of power to puniſh offenders, the neceſſity which ſometimes occurs of relaxing the rules of juſtice for political reaſons, partiality towards culprits &c. by all of which many groſs and aggravated crimes eſcape deſerved puniſhment. But none of theſe can apply to Him whoſe throne is founded in judgment, and the ſceptre of whoſe kingdoms is an untarniſhed ſceptre of righteouſneſs. None can elude his ſcrutiny or evade his power; for he ſearches the heart

and tries the reins, to give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Hence it will follow, that it is only a realizing ſenſe of the univerſality of God's government, our obligations to obey his laws and the inflexibility of his juſtice, which can give ſecurity for good morals, and enſure perſonal and ſocial happineſs. This ſenſe is inſeparably connected with the principles of religion, and will influence the heart and motives of action, as well as the external conduct.

Beſides, the principles of religion will prevent many crimes which human laws cannot reach, ſuch as ingratitude to benefactors, want of charity to the poor, diſobedience and other breaches of filial duty to parents, luxury and prodigality in the conſumption of property, many ſpecies of frauds, calumny, games of hazard, profaneneſs &c. together with intoxication, and many other crimes which cannot be made objects of legiſlative authority, and yet are equally deſtructive of perſonal and ſocial happineſs, with many of thoſe which lie within the ſphere of legiſlation.

When crimes of whatever ſpecies become general, they then become more formidable to ſociety than when perpetrated only by ſolitary individuals; becauſe union always gives ſtrength to a party in proportion to its number, and among crimes of this deſcription, few, if any have a worſe influence on ſociety than theſe three: The breach of God's holy ſabbath, profane ſwearing, and the intemperate uſe of ardent ſpirits.

A few words on each of theſe will be ſufficient to ſhow their pernicious effects.

A diſreſpect to the duties of the ſabbath is an indication of contempt of that authority which has commanded us to "Remember the ſabbath day and keep it holy."—And as this precept is ſpecially directed to heads of families and other public perſons, thoſe in ſuch departments who countenance a breach of that holy day, either by precept, example, or even connivance, muſt be moſt culpa-

ble. Hence appears the duty of miniſters of the goſpel and civil magiſtrates; as the former are ſet as examples for the flock, and the latter as a terror to evil doers and a praiſe to them who do well; and it would be equally prepoſterous to ſee the one or the other engaged in the profanation of that holy day. Beſides, the weekly ſabbath may be conſidered as one principal pillar of revealed religion: for we may venture to aſſert, that without ſuch a periodical day, carrying in its inſtitution the ſtamp of divine authority, ſocial public worſhip could never have been kept up, and with that muſt have ceaſed the other ordinances of the goſpel; for human authority, which is always changeable in its meaſures, would never have had energy enough either to eſtabliſh a certain day, or a certain proportion of time for religious exerciſes. It will therefore follow, that thoſe whoſe conduct militates againſt the force of the above precept, militates againſt the whole ſyſtem of revealed religion; and we have reaſon to believe, that to this very ſource may be traced much of that infidelity which now prevails in the world.

Profane ſwearing carries in its front the moſt glaring evidences of an abandoned character, hardened in impiety; as it ſhows a total irreverence for the great and dreadful name of GOD, and contempt of his authority; and gives an indication that the ſwearer, in his own eſtimation, has, by ſome means, forfeited his right, in the view of his auditors, to credibility on his ſimple affirmation; therefore, in order to gain credit from them, he thinks it is neceſſary to call upon God to witneſs the truth of his aſſertions. Such a line of conduct, even independently of its criminality, muſt be equally degrading to the gentleman and the chriſtian.

Beſides, oaths being a part of that religious homage which God excluſively claims as his own, profane ſwearing tends to relax their obligation by deſtroying their ſolemnity, and weakening that confidence which one part of ſociety ought to repoſe in another, and which is ſo in-

diſpenſably neceſſary, both in judicial teſtimony and the uſual diſcharge of ſocial duties. Moreover, it may be doubtful whether the profane ſwearer is more to be believed when he is called to take a judicial oath, than when he ſwears by the ſacred name in common converſation.

Drunkenneſs is the parent of many evils both natural and moral. How many ſtrong and healthful conſtitutions do we ſee broken down by it? How many uſeful, public characters, men of brilliant talents, improved by all the advantages of a liberal education and polite literature, who have ſpent many years to qualify themſelves for uſeful and honorable departments, have, after all, debaſed themſelves by that abominable vice below the inferior animals, become the objects of compaſſion to all around them who poſſeſs humane and manly feelings, of grief to their connections and deriſion to the rabble of the ſtreets!

How much poverty, diſcord and miſery, do we ſee in many families, ariſing from the intemperance of wretched fathers, in places where this crime predominates? How unhappy muſt the ſtate of that family be, who, inſtead of meeting the fond embraces of a complacent huſband and father, returning from abroad, are ſtruck with terror at the approach of a ſavage monſter. All muſt toy, ſoothe, flatter, until he be laid to ſleep; then nothing above a whiſper muſt be ſpoken, leſt the tyrant be roufed. This is but a faint picture of the natural evils which attend this crime.

No leſs numerous, and much more dreadful, are the moral evils with which it is attended.—Witneſs the quarrels and fightings, the vollies of oaths and fearful imprecations, together with the horrid profanations of the ſabbath; yea, many cruel and aggravated murders and other enormous crimes, which may be traced back to the intemperate uſe of ſpiritous liquors as their origin.

The force of the foregoing obſervations, it is preſumed, muſt be felt even by thoſe who make no pretenſions to religion; and ſuch muſt acknowledge the truth of So-

lomon's obſervation, that " righteouſneſs exalteth a nation; but ſin is the reproach of any people."

Were it poſſible for any of the human race ſo far to degrade themſelves, by depraving the moral principle, as to imagine that they will drop into non exiſtence at death, with their brute animals that carry them to their ſcenes of debauchery, even they muſt acknowledge, that the ſober, temperate man, who has eſtabliſhed ſuch a character for veracity that his word is believed equally with his oath, not only lives the moſt happy life; but that his example, as far as its influence extends, has vaſtly the happieſt effect on ſociety. And thoſe who will take time to reflect, that the day is coming " in which all who are in their graves ſhall hear the voice of the Son of God, and ſhall come forth, they who have done good to the reſurrections of life, and they who have done evil to the reſurrection of damnation," muſt acknowledge, that thoſe who have denied themſelves to " all ungodlineſs and worldly luſts, and have lived ſoberly, righteouſly and godly in the preſent world," ſhall finally reap the advantage.

The above conſiderations, dear brethren, are affectionately ſubmitted to your ſerious peruſal, under the perſuaſion that they will be read with that ſpirit of candor and brotherly regard with which we are conſcious they are now communicated; believing you will join with us in ſaying, that the ways of piety are ways of pleaſantneſs and all its paths peace. Should a general experiment be made among you on this divine maxim, you may be aſſured that its happy effects will ſoon be felt both by individuals and ſocieties.

Then will induſtry, frugality and ſobriety, together with every moral and chriſtian virtue abound among you. Gaming tables will not be known, taverns will have few unneceſſary viſitants. The Lord's day will be religiouſly obſerved, his churches frequented, and the goſpel of the holy Jeſus cordially embraced. The hearts of his miniſters will be encouraged, and their hands ſtrengthened.

Then will our labours be comfortable to ourſelves, and, we hope, profitable to you. We ſhall then be able to give a favourable report of the religious ſtate of your territory, to our fathers and brethren, who have ſent us on ſuch an arduous miſſion; the friends of religion and good morals will be encouraged, votaries for vice will become aſhamed of their crimes; and even ſhould they continue in the practice of them, will retire with them into darkneſs. The minds of your children will not be poiſoned, nor their morals corrupted, by ſuch peſts of ſociety as we have already deſcribed; but piety and virtue will predominate, "judgment ſhall run down as waters, and righteouſneſs as a mighty ſtream."

That piety and good morals may abound among you, that you may long enjoy the bleſſings of peace, and be ſecured in the poſſeſſion of your civil and religious rights, which are ſo dear to every American, is the unfeigned wiſh and ardent deſire of

Dear Brethren, your affectionate friends,
and ſervants in the goſpel,

JAMES HALL, Jun.
JAMES BOWMAN,
WILLIAM MONTGOMERY.

Natchez, Feb. 20th, 1801.

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

MINUTES

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

IN THE

United States of America.

A. D. 1802.

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed by R. Aitken, No. 20, North Third Street.

1802.

EXTRACTS &c.

May 20th, 1802.

THE General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America, met agreeably to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church in the City of Philadelphia, at 11 o'clock A. M. and was opened by the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, the Moderator of the last Assembly, with a sermon from Luke xiv. 23.—COMPEL THEM TO COME IN———

It appeared that the following persons were duly appointed commissioners to this Assembly, viz.

Of the Presbytery of Albany,

MINISTERS.

The Rev. Isaac Lewis.
———Eliphalet Nott.

Of the Presbytery of Hudson.

MINISTERS.

The Rev. Andrew King.
———Methuselah Baldwin.

Of the Presbytery of New-York.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
The Rev. Dr. John Rodgers,	Mr. William Irwin,
———Azel Roe,	——Joseph Lindsley &
The Rev. James Richards,	——John Lasher.
———Henry Kollock.	

Of the Presbytery of Long-Island.

The Rev. William Schenck.

Of the Presbytery of New-Brunswick.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
The Rev. Joseph Rue,	Mr. John Bayard &
———William Sloan &	——Isaac Snowden.
———Thomas Grant.	

Of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

MINISTERS.	ELD[illegible]
The Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green,	Mr. Eber
———Nathanael Irwin &	——[illegible]
———Philip Milledoler.	

Of the Presbytery of New-Castle.

MINISTERS.	ELDER.
The Rev. Nathan Grier,	Dr. Willliam Duffield.
——— Nathanael W. Sample &	
——— John E. Latta.	

Of the Presbytery of Lewis.

The Rev. John Burton.

Of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
The Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper,	Mr. James M'Clean,
——— Robert Cathcart,	——Alexdr. Ruffel &
——— Francis Herron &	——Walter Clarke.
——— Joſhua Williams.	

Of the Presbytery of Baltimore.

MINISTER.	ELDER.
The Rev. James Inglis.	Mr. James Irwin.

Of the Presbytery of Huntingdon.

MINISTERS.	ELDER.
The Rev. Matthew Brown.	Mr. John Byer.
——— John B. Patterſon,	

Of the Presbytery of Erie.

The Rev. Samuel Tate.

Of the Presbytery of Redstone.

MINISTER.	ELDER.
The Rev. David Smith.	Mr. John Power.

Of the Presbytery of Ohio.

MINITERS.	ELDER.
The Rev. Thomas Marques &	Mr. William M'Kinley.
——— John Watſon.	

Of the Presbytery of Hanover.

The Rev. Drury Lacy.

Of the Presbytery of Concord.

The Rev. James M'Crea.

Of the 2d Presbytery of South Carolina.

The Rev. James Templeton.

The Rev. Meſſrs. Ammi R. Robins and Azel Backus appeared in the Aſſembly, and exhibited certificates of their appointment

as delegates to this Aſſembly from the General Aſſociation of Connecticut. The certificates being read and approved, they took their ſeats in the aſſembly agreeably to their appointment.

The delegates to the laſt General Aſſociation, Reported,—That they all attended the Aſſociation during the whole of their ſeſſions, and were received and treated with great cordiality and friendſhip: That the regulations ſubmitted by laſt Aſſembly reſpecting the eſtabliſhment of churches on the frontiers, conſiſting of members partly of the Preſbyterian and partly of the Congregational denomination, were unanimouſly adopted by the Aſſociation: That the Aſſociation are forming a plan of intercourſe between them and the convention of the Clergy of the State of Vermont, ſimilar to that ſubſiſting between the ſaid Aſſociation and the General Aſſembly.

A communication was received from the Preſbytery of Albany, ſtating, that a joint committee, conſiſting of members of that Preſbytery and members from a Preſbytery known by the name of the Northern Aſſociate Preſbytery, had met, and agreed upon a plan of friendly correſpondence between the miniſters and churches belonging to theſe Preſbyteries reſpectively, conſiſting of three articles, viz. The committee has in effect agreed,

1. That there ſhall be occaſional communion between the members of the particular churches ſubordinate to thoſe Preſbyteries reſpectively.

2. That there be a friendly interchange of ſervices among the miniſters: And,

3. That each Preſbytery, while in ſeſſion, may invite members occaſionally preſent from the other, to ſit as correſponding members: That the Preſbytery of Albany having heard the report of the ſaid committee, approved thereof, and reſolved to requeſt the General Aſſembly to ſanction the ſame, and authorize the Preſbytery of Albany to adopt it.

The Aſſembly, after due examination and deliberation, expreſſed their approbation of the ſaid plan of correſpondence.

A repreſentation from the Truſtees of the College of New-Jerſey was laid before the Aſſembly, in which the ſaid Truſtees petition the Aſſembly to recommend to all the congregations under their care to take up liberal collections, to aid in rebuilding ſaid College edifice, which has lately been conſumed by fire. Whereupon, after deliberation, the Aſſembly

RESOLVED,—That it be, and it hereby is, recommended to all the congregations, both ſettled and vacant, under the care of the General Aſſembly, to endeavour to raiſe liberal contributions for rebuilding the Edifice and repleniſhing the Library of the College of New-Jerſey; and that it be left to the diſcretion

of the minister and session of each congregation, to make the contribution either by subscription or by a collection in the church, or by both. The Presbyteries are to take measures to carry this recommendation into effect, and the sessions to see that the sums collected be forwarded, as safely and expeditiously as possible, to the Rev. Dr. Rodgers, of New-York, the Rev. Dr. Green, Philadelphia, or to Mr. Enos Kelsey, Treasurer of the Trustees of the aforesaid College, at Princeton, in New-Jersey.

RESOLVED,—That Mr. Chapman, the stated missionary of the General Assembly, be authorized to give an order for the books now in the hands of Messrs. Eights and Hutton of Albany, and directed to the care of Messrs. Gordon and Evans of Geneva; and that Mr. Chapman be authorized to defray the expences of transportation out of the sale of the books.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries which have not yet exhibited histories of their origin, progress and present state, pay early attention to the subject, and report to the next General Assembly.

The committee appointed to examine the records of the Synod of Virginia, reported, that the said records had not been brought forward, and that therefore they have not been able to execute their trust. Ordered, That the said Synod be careful to send up their records to the next General Assembly.

Whereas the version of the Psalms made by Dr. Watts, has heretofore been allowed in the congregations under the care of the Assembly, it is now thought expedient that the Hymns of Dr. Watts be also allowed, and they are accordingly hereby allowed, in such congregations as may judge it for edification to use them in public and social worship.

And whereas, the Rev. Dr. Timothy Dwight, by order of the General Association of Connecticut, has revised the version of the Psalms made by Dr. Watts and versified a number omitted by him, and has also made a selection of Hymns from various authors, which, together with the Psalms, were intended to furnish a system of psalmody for the use of churches and families; which system has been revised and recommended by a joint committee of the General Assembly and the General Association of Connecticut heretofore appointed, as well as examined and approved by a committee of this Assembly: the said system is hereby chearfully allowed, in such congregations as may think it for edification to adopt and use the same.

The session of the church of Westminster, in Jefferson county and State of Tennessee, having requested the direction of this Assembly in a case of discipline, viz. Whether a man and his wife were admissible to church privileges, who had been re-

lated to each other as uncle and niece, that is to say, the woman being sister's daughter to the man's former wife: The Assembly

Resolved, That the decision given by the General Assembly, in the year 1797, in a case somewhat resembling the present, may be adopted: The decision referred to, is as follows:

"Resolved, That although the Assembly would wish to discountenance imprudent marriages, or such as tend in any way "to give uneasiness to serious persons, yet it is their opinion, that "the marriage referred to is not of such a nature, as to render "it necessary to exclude the parties from the privileges of the "church."

Resolved, That the members of the Synod of Virginia, agreeably to their request, be divided into three Synods, as follows, viz.

1. That the Presbyteries of Hanover, Lexington, and Winchester, constitute a Synod, to be known by the name of *The Synod of Virginia:* That they hold their first meeting at the Presbyterian church in Lexington in Virginia, on the last Wednesday in September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. James Waddel, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present: and that they afterwards meet upon their own adjournments.

2. That the Presbyteries of Redstone, Ohio, and Erie, be constituted a Synod, to be known by the name of *The Synod of Pittsburg:* That they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church at Pittsburg, on the last Wednesday in September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. James Power, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present; and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

3 That the Presbyteries of Transylvania, Western Lexington, and Washington, be constituted a Synod, to be known by the name of *The Synod of Kentucky:* That their first meeting be held in the Presbyterian church in the town of Lexington in Kentucky, on the second Thursday in October next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. James Welch, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister who may be present; and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

The committee to whom was referred the petition of the Presbytery of Albany, reported —The report being considered, was adopted, which is as follows:

Your committee are of opinion, that the division of the Presbytery ought to take place,—but that said Presbyteries ought not to be constituted a Synod, until the Synod of New-York and New-Jersey be consulted on the subject; and therefore submit the following resolutions:

1. That so much of the Presbytery of Albany as lies on the east side of Hudson's river, including the Rev. Messrs. Harford, Bogue, Halsey, and Coe, be constituted a Presbytery, by the name of *The Presbytery of Columbia:* That they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church in Tryon, the second Tuesday in September next; and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Warford, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present; and that they afterwards meet on their own adjournments.

2. That so much of the Presbytery of Albany as lies on the west side of the eastern line of the counties of Otsego and Herkemer, including the Rev. Messrs. Fish, Linsley, Dodd, Lewis, and Mr. Chapman late of the Presbytery of New-York, and Mr. Snowden, late of the Presbytery of New-Brunswick, be constituted a Presbytery, by the name of *The Presbytery of Oneida:* That they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church at Whitesborough, on the first Tuesday in September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Chapman, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present; afterwards to meet on their own adjournments.

3. That the remaining part of said Presbytery, lying between the Hudson's river and the eastern line of the counties of Otsego and Herkemer, including the Rev. Messrs. Miller, Hosack, Clarkson, Nott, Bradley, and Sweetman, be constituted a Presbytery, by the name of *The Presbytery of Albany:* That they hold their first meeting in the Presbyterian church at Albany, on the third Tuesday in September next, and be opened with a sermon by the Rev. Alexander Miller, or in case of his absence, by the next senior minister present; afterwards to meet on their own adjournment.

Ordered, That the Presbyteries which have not communicated to the General Assembly their opinion as to the alteration of the 6th Article of the 11th chapter of the Constitution,* be careful to send forward the same, in their reports to next Assembly.

By a report from the Presbytery of Lewis, it appeared that a minister, heretofore a member of that Pesbytery, had been declared to be no longer a member thereof; and as the Assembly were informed, is considered by them as divested of the ministerial office, and this without deposition, suspension, or censure. —Whereupon

RESOLVED—That it is a principle of this church, that no minister of the gospel can be regularly divested of his office, except by a course of discipline, terminating in his deposition.—That if any minister by providential circumstances, become inca-

Note.—See extracts printed 1799.

pable of exercising his ministerial functions, or is called to suspend them, or to exercise them only occasionally, he is still to be considered as fully possessing the ministerial character and privileges, and his brethren of the Presbytery are to inspect his conduct, and while they treat him with due tenderness and sympathy, they are to be careful that he do not neglect ministerial duty, beyond what his circumstances render unavoidable.—That if any minister of the gospel, through a worldly spirit, a disrelish for the duties of his office, or any other criminal motive, become negligent or careless, he is by no means to be suffered to pursue this course, so as at length to be permitted to lay aside the ministry without censure; because this would be to encourage a disregard of the most solemn obligations, by opening a way to escape from them with impunity:—But in all such cases, Presbyteries are seasonably to use the means and pursue the methods pointed out in the word of God and the rules of this church, to recal their offending brother to a sense of duty; and if all their endeavours be ineffectual, they are at length regularly to exclude or depose him from his office.

If any cases or questions relative to this subject shall arise in Presbyteries, which are not contemplated by the provisions of this rule, such cases or questions should be referred to the General Assembly for a special decision.

The Assembly having heard from each of their members a circumstantial account of the state of religion in those places to which his observation had extended, are happy to state as the result, that there appears to be cause of mutual congratulation.

Though vice and immorality still too much abound, and though in some of our churches luke-warmness prevails; yet in general, appearances are more favourable than usual; the influence of Christianity during the last year appears to have been progressive, and, in many places, the ordinances of the gospel have been attended with very extraordinary success —From the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south, the most pleasing intelligence has been received. With joy have the Assembly heard the glad tidings of the out-pouring of the Divine Spirit, and of times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Revivals, of a more or less general nature, have taken place in many of our Presbyteries.—The pious have been quickened, the daring arrested, the haughty humbled, and multitudes of once thoughtless sinners have been added to the church. In some parts of the States of Virginia and North Carolina, the Spirit of God has, we trust, been poured out in an extraordinary manner and by accounts received from Kentucky and Tennessee, the un-

usual work there, of which the Assembly have been heretofore informed, appears, during the last year, to have been progressive. Doubtful as the nature of the revival there first appeared, from the very singular circumstances which attended it, the Assembly do exceedingly rejoice that in its progress abundant evidence has been given that its author is God, and its effects highly desirable. The aspect of an extensive country has been changed from levity to seriousness; scoffers have been silenced, and thousands convinced of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come.—In these things the Assembly trace the footsteps of Jehovah, and recognise the operation of his promised Spirit.

Though in some of the middle and southern Presbyteries appearances are not so favourable, yet even there, the Assembly are happy to learn, that in many churches, there is evidently an increasing respect for the institutions of religion, and in some, a hopeful attention to its important concerns.

The influence of that vain philosophy which has spread its infection through many of our cities, and even insinuated itself into the remote parts of our country, corrupting society, and poisoning the very principles of moral action, has been greatly diminished—Infidelity, which a few years since threatened, by its artful seductions, to undermine the foundations of virtue, and by its open assaults, to break down the barriers of religion, is now seldom heard of, in many of the congregations within our bounds.—Some of its champions have been arrested by Sovereign Grace, and humbled at the foot of Emanuel's cross—conquered by that same Jesus whom they once despised and insulted, they now hail him as their King, and shine among the living members of his church. Many of their companions, awed by these conquests, have retired from public view, and hidden themselves in silence. Thus while the enemy was coming in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord lifted up a standard against him. "The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voices, but thou art mightier than they."

From the frontiers the Assembly have received information at once pleasing and animating—Our missionaries have been received with much respect, their ministrations have been attended with seriousness, a cordial thankfulness for their labours, and an earnest desire that further aid may be afforded, have been expressed by most of those settlements to which they have been sent. The prospect of the conversion of the Indian tribes appears to be increasing, and the Assembly cannot but hope that the time is not far distant when the wilderness on our borders, shall bud and blossom as the rose.—When the cottage of the pagan shall be gladdened by the reception of the gospel, and the wandering and

warlike savage shall lay the implements of his cruelty at the feet of Jesus. Delightful period! when sinners shall flock to the Saviour as clouds and as doves to their windows.—When an innumerable multitude, gathered from among all nations, shall sing *Redeeming love*, and triumph in the hope of a happy immortality;—When the church shall look forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners:—When the righteousness thereof shall go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth; and when all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of God.—Such shall be the coming of Christ in the success of the gospel. Even so come Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Resolved, That the members of this Assembly will spend the evening of Saturday next in this church, as a season of special prayer for the revival of religion, and other devout exercises, directed to the same object.*

The last General Assembly, having directed the Synods of Virginia and of the Carolinas, to report to this Assembly their opinion, whether the missionary business within their bounds, should in future be conducted by those Synods in their separate capacity, or whether the whole ought to be under the direction of the General Assembly.—The Synods were called upon this subject, when the members of the Assembly, from the Synod of Virginia, reported, that the said Synod had duly considered the matter, and were of opinion, that the objects will be best promoted, by that Synod continuing to conduct the missionary business as they have been accustomed to do for some years past. The members from the Synod of the Carolinas informed, that their Synod have not (so far as they know) decided on the subject.

Agreeably to the order of the last Assembly, the commission of the Synod of Virginia, west of the Allegany mountains, reported, that since their last report, they have sent out nine missionaries for different periods of time. That of these, three were sent to the Indians, viz. the Shawanese and other Indians about Detroit and Sandusky: That they have also sent among the Indians a young man of a pious character, to instruct them in agriculture, and make some instruments of husbandry for them: That Blue Jacket, an Indian boy, instructed under their direction, has given evidence of a work of grace on his heart, been received to church communion, and will go out this summer as an interpreter; and that, on the whole, the prospects of success in that quarter, are flattering; as well among the Indians as the frontier whites.

* *Note.*—This was done in the presence of a very great concourse of people.

The committee to whom were referred the journals of the miſſionaries of laſt year, reported—The report having been read, was accepted, and is as follows, viz.

Your committee report, That the Rev. Dr. Read, of the Preſbytery of New-Caſtle, ſpent ſix or ſeven weeks as a miſſionary on the Peninſula, between the Delaware, the Ocean, and the Cheſapeake Bay.

That the Rev. Jedediah Chapman, appointed to itinerate two months, in the year 1800, in the Geneſee country, reported, that he had been ſix weeks on that miſſion.

Your committee read the greater part of Mr. Chapman's journal as a ſtated miſſionary to the preſent time, from which it appears, that he is proſecuting his miſſion with diligence, prudence, and fidelity. His hearers appear frequently to have been tenderly impreſſed with a ſenſe of the importance of eternal things. Mr. Chapman alſo ſtates, that he has organized three churches, and that there are hopeful proſpects that a number more will be ſhortly organized. He travelled 2000 miles, and preached above 100 ſermons.

That the committee read the journal of the Rev. John Lindſley, for the year 1800, when it appeared, that he had fulfilled a miſſion of four months, excluſive of the time he ſpent in going from his own houſe to the place from which he was directed to ſet out, and returning home, (for which he has made no charge) during which time, he ſeems to have proſecuted the great end of his miſſion with fidelity. He baptized eleven children, and preached ninety-ſix times.

That the committee read the Rev. Mr. Coe's journal. It appears that he diligently attended to his duty as a miſſionary: That the people to whom he preached were attentive to what he ſaid, thankful to the Aſſembly for their care in ſending miſſionaries among them, and that the proſpect of uſefulneſs in the country where he laboured is very flattering. He ſerved as a miſſionary for ſix weeks.

That the committee read the continuation of the Rev. James Hall's journal, as miſſionary to the Miſſiſſippi territory; from which it appears, that he faithfully purſued the end contemplated by his miſſion. He expreſſes his deſire that miſſionaries may be ſent to that territory by the Aſſembly. He ſerved on his miſſion ſeven months and thirteen days.

That the committee read the journal of the Rev. Mr. Grigſby, which ſtates, that he travelled through the counties of Accomac, Northampton, &c. and that he laboured carefully for three months.

That the committee read the journal of Mr. Peter Fiſh: He paſſed through, and preached in the county of Oneida and its

vicinity. He ſtates, that two congregations have lately been organized there; one of Congregationaliſts, of about thirty members, and one of Baptiſts, of nearly the ſame number. He appears to have attended to the object of his miſſion with care and diligence.

That the committee read the journal of Mr. Robert Chapman, who was miſſionary to the Geneſee country for two months: He appears to have proſecuted his buſineſs with care and fidelity.

That the journal of Mr. John Chavis, a black man, licenſed by the Preſbytery of Lexington, in Virginia, was read in the Aſſembly. He appears to have executed his miſſion with great diligence, fidelity and prudence. He ſerved as a miſſionary nine months.

That Meſſrs. Lindſley, Logan, and Smith, informed the Aſſembly by letter, that they had it not in their power to fulfil the miſſions to which they were appointed by laſt Aſſembly.

That upon the whole, the gentlemen employed as miſſionaries have, in the opinion of your committee, diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their perſeverance, diligence, and fidelity; and made great exertions to ſpread the knowledge of Jeſus Chriſt, and promote the ſalvation of men: Nor have their labours been in vain in the Lord.

The Aſſembly Reſolved,

1. That the Rev. Peter Fiſh of the Preſbytery of Albany, be appointed a miſſionary for four months, on the weſt ſide of Lake Champlain, between the ſouthern end of Lake George and the northern boundary of the State of New-York, to ſet out as ſoon as convenient.

2. That the Rev. John Lindſley be appointed a miſſionary for two months; commencing his route in Cayuga county, and proceeding through Onondaga and Oneida counties; as ſoon as convenient.

3. That the Rev. Aaron Condict be appointed a miſſionary for two months; to take a route through the Beech Woods; beginning at the river Delaware, to viſit the congregation of Nine Partners, the great bend of Suſquehannah, Deacon Miller's, Owago, the weſt ſide of Ovid, Romulus, Waſhington, and thence to Geneva, to receive further inſtructions from the ſtated miſſionary.

4. That Mr. James M'Graw, a licentiate under the care of New-Caſtle Preſbytery, be appointed a miſſionary for two months, to begin his route at Wilkſbarre on the Suſquehannah, and proceed to the different ſettlements between that place and Tioga Point.

5. That Dr. Thomas Read, of the Preſbytery of New-Caſtle, be appointed a miſſionary for two months, on the Peninſula, be-

tween the river Delaware, the Atlantic Ocean, and Chesapeak Bay.

6. That the Rev. James Hall, of the Presbytery of Concord, North Carolina, be appointed a missionary in the country of the Natchez, as heretofore.

7. That Mr. John Chavis be appointed a missionary for as much of his time as may be convenient; to take his instructions with respect to his routes, from the Rev. Drury Lacy and the Rev. Archibald Alexander.

8. That the Rev. James Richards, of the Presbytery of New-York, be appointed a missionary for one month, to labour on the frontiers of the Presbyteries of New-York and New-Brunswick, in the county of Sussex, in the State of New-Jersey, and in the contiguous parts of the State of New-York, at his discretion.

The Assembly have attended with a very considerable degree of care and solicitude to the duty of sending missionaries among the Indian or heathen tribes of America, but have not been able to recommend any person who is willing to undertake that arduous and important service.

Resolved, That the Presbytery of Ohio be directed to endeavour to send a missionary for two months to Marietta; and that the said missionary report to next Assembly, and be paid out of the funds of the Assembly at the same rate as the other missionaries.*

The Assembly, pursuant to the report of a committee

"Resolved, That a committee be chosen annually by the General Assembly, to be denominated '*The standing Committee of Missions*,' that this committee shall consist of seven members, of whom four shall be clergymen and three laymen; that a majority of this committee shall be a quorum to do business; that it shall be the duty of this committee to collect, during the recess of the Assembly, all the information in their power relative to the concerns of missions and missionaries, to digest this information, and to report thereon at each meeting of the Assembly; to designate the places where, and specify the periods during which the missionaries should be employed; to correspond with them if necessary, and with all other persons on missionary business; to nominate missionaries to the Assembly, and report the number which the funds will permit to be employed; to hear the reports of missionaries, make a statement thereon to the Assembly relative to the diligence, fidelity, and success of the missionaries, the sum due

* *Note.*—That besides the missionaries mentioned, the Assembly employ a standing missionary, (Mr. J. Chapman,) and the Synods of Virginia and the Carolinas fund out several missionaries every year, to the Indians and white people on their borders.

to each, and such parts of their reports as it may be supposed the Assembly would wish to hear in detail; to ascertain annually whether any money remains with the Trustees of the College of New-Jersey, which ought to be used for missionary purposes, agreeably to the last will of James Lesley deceased; that they also engage a suitable person annually, to preach a missionary sermon, on the Monday evening next after the opening of the Assembly, at which a collection shall be made for the support of missions; and superintend, generally, under the direction of the Assembly, the missionary business.

Resolved, That though this standing committee shall be elected annually, yet each committee shall continue in office till the end of the sessions of that General Assembly which succeeds the one by whom said committe was appointed.

Resolved, That this standing committee of missions, in addition to the duties above specified, shall be, and they are hereby empowered, to direct the trustees of the General Assembly, during the recess of the Assembly, to issue warrants for any sums of money which may become due in consequence of contracts, appropriations, or assignments of duty made by the Assembly, and for which orders may not have been issued by the Assembly, and on this subject the committee shall annually report to the Assembly."

Agreeably to the foregoing resolutions, the Assembly proceeded to elect seven persons to be *A standing Committee of Missions*, when the Rev. Dr. Green, the Rev. Messrs. Philip Milledoler, John B. Linn, Jacob J. Janeway, Messrs. Elias Boudinot, Robert Smith and Ebenezer Hazard, were duly chosen.

Whereas an invoice of books suitable for the purposes of the Assembly, amounting to 50*£* 14*s* 10*d* sterling, has been laid upon the table, and may be purchased, in whole or in part, at first cost and charges—

Resolved, That the trustees of the Assembly be desired to purchase said books, or such part of them, or any other books, as the state of their funds will admit, consistently with the appropriations already made; and that they take proper measures, in conjunction with the standing committee of missions, to have the books above mentioned, and those received from Mr. Robert Aitken, together with such as shall be received from Mr. Cornelius Davis of New-York, properly distributed.

The committee on the agencies reported:—the report being read, was adopted, and is as follows: viz.

Your committee report—

That the Rev. Joseph Clark since last General Assembly, has paid into the permanent fund certain arrrears of former subscriptions, as follows, viz.

	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
From the congregation of Bound Brook,	12			
Cranberry,	4			
Baſkenridge,	3	50		
Allentown and Nottingham,	28			
Weſtfield,	14	50		
Mendum,	18			
Elizabeth Town,	98			
			178	

By the printed extracts of laſt year, it apppears that the amount of ſubſcriptions uncollected at that time by Mr. Clark was 523 25

independent of monies (amount not known, ſee extracts, page 10,) due from Springfield, Weſtfield, &c. So that there appears to be now uncollected beſides the amount at that time due from Springfield, &c. which muſt ſtill be conſidered as out-ſtanding, altho' money has been received from ſome of thoſe places as above ſtated. 345 25

The treaſurer acknowledges the receipt of the above ſum of 178

From the extracts (page 10) it appears that there remained uncollected of the ſubſcriptions procured by the Rev Dr Green 1024 80

The whole of that ſum is accounted for excepting which are yet out-ſtanding. 80

Of the balance out-ſtanding laſt year on Dr. Tennent's liſts, the whole has been paid to the treaſurer except 13

The following ſubſcriptions, procured ſince laſt General Aſſembly, have been preſented to your committee, viz.

From the Rev. Robert Cathcart,

	Dolls.	Cts.		
Subſcriptions obtained from Upper W. Connegocheague, in addition to former ſubſcriptions,	5			
Toms Creek,	22			
Paxton and Derry,	19			
Great Cove,	10	32		
Germans in U. W. Connegocheague,	57	84		
			114	16

The whole of which has been paid into the treaſury.

			Dolls.	Cts.
The Rev. Nathanael Irwin,				
	Dolls.	Cts.		
From Swedesborough,	45	66		
Woodstown,	37	5		
Salem,	138	70	Dolls.	Cts.
Greenwich,	105	8 whereof uncol.	2	
Bridgetown,	296	60	14	
Fairfield,	148	½	31	
Deerfield,	189	82	66	
Woodbury and Timber Creek,	115		13	
Pitts Grove,	107	46	3	50
Scattering subscrips.	13	50		
1st Pr. Church Philadelphia,	634		160*	
Total subscriptions	1830	87½ *uncol.*	289	50
The treasurer acknowledges the receipt of from Mr. Irwin.				1410

From the Rev. Dr. Robert Cooper,	£	s	d	
Upper congre. Path Valley,	10	2	10½	
Miller's town & vicinity,	3	0	9	
Big Spring, (additional)	2	5		
Lewis town, Mifflin county,	7	0	4½	
L. W. Connegocheague, (ad.)	9		11	
Williamsport Maryland,	5	15	6	
Sharpsborough,	1	3	1½	
Hager's town,	8	5		
Middle Spring, (additional)	19	18	7½	
Mifflin town & vicinity,	9			
E. Kishacoquillas & Dry valley,	9	15		
A gentleman from Maryland,	1	17	6	
	£87	4	8d	
Equal to				232 62
Whereof he has paid to the treasurer				225 22
The treasurer has received from Dr. Hunloke Woodruff of Albany,				495 62
but your committee have not been informed by whom, or where it has been collected.				
The Rev. John Clark of Hudson Presbytery, paid into the treasury,				25 37

* This subscription not finished.

	Dolls.	Cts.
The congregation of Jamaica on Long Island subscribed,	40	50
Whereof one dol. is uncollected,		
And paid into the treasury—	37	25

From an account received from the Rev. David S. Bogart, it appears that he received on Long Island

	Dolls.	*Cts.*
At Southampton,	16	2
West Hampton,	8	17
Bridgehampton,	26	90½
Sag Harbour,	35	
East Hampton,	33	60
Eastern Parish of Aquabogue,	10	
Western do.	6	33
Mattituck,	7	45½
Cutchogue,	8	23½
Rev. Mr. Hazard's church,	10	64½
Middletown,	2	40
Miller's Place,	8	28
Setaucket,	13	76½
The Branch,	13	64
Huntingdon,	20	96½
Do. South,	11	16½
Sundry persons & places,	22	97½
	255	55
Deduct expences &c.	21	93

Leaves	233	62

For which the treasurer's receipt has been produced.

Mr. Bogart states that he travelled 330 miles, and that for his time and labour, he neither expects nor wishes any pecuniary compensation.

*The Rev. Isaac Lewis handed to the committee a paper containing subscriptions from the Presbytery of Albany for 51 87

whereof two dollars are uncollected,

The Rev. John B. Patterson reports the following subscriptions, viz

	Dolls.	*Cts.*		*Dolls.*	*Cts.*
At Buffaloe Valley,	88	80			
Northumberland	39	85	whereof uncol.	1	75
Sunbury,	51	45		2	
Milton,	33	50			
Carried up,	213	60		3	75

* It is alledged that part of the money received from Dr. Woodruff was for these subscriptions.

	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
Brought up,	213	60	3	75		
Lycoming,	32	85	where of uncol. 1	16		
Pine Creek & Great Iſland,	77	50				
White Deer,	26	49	14	17		
Derry,	22		1			
Mahoning,	25	8		50		
Tuſcarora,	30		4	78		
Wyoming,	2	1				
	429	53	25	36		

Mr. Patterſon has produced the treaſurers receipt for 395 49

That the Aſſembly may have a comprehenſive view of this ſubject, the committee think it proper to exhibit the following ſummary of ſubſcriptions and receipts for the year paſt, ſo far as they appear from the documents produced.

Mr. Clark receiv'd & paid the treaſurer,		Theſe ſums were uncollect ed laſt year.	178	
Dr. Green accounted for with	Do.		944	80
Dr. Tennent,	Do.		24	
		Dolls.	*Cts.*	
Mr. Cathcart has paid	Do.	114	16	
Mr. Irwin's amount of ſubſcriptions,		1830	87½	
Dr. Cooper's	Do.	232	62	
Dr. Hunloke Woodruff paid,		495	62	
Rev. John Clark,	Do.	25	37	
Church of Jamaica, Long Iſland,		40	50	
Rev. David S. Bogart,		233	62	
——John B. Patterſon,		422	53	
Total amount of ſubſcriptions for the year juſt ended ſo far as documents appear,				3402 29½
From which is to be deducted,				
Uncollected by Mr. Irwin,		289	50	
Expences Do.		34	95½	
Compenſation for Do. 46 days,		46		
Doctor Cooper's expences,		7	40	
Compenſation to Do. for 39 days, he having relinquiſhed part,		30		
Mr. Patterſon's expences,		7	60	
Compenſation to Do. 40 days,		40		
Carried over,				455 45½

	Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
Brought over,	455	45½		
Uncollected by Mr. Patterson,	25	36		
			480	81½
So that there appears a nett amount of			2921	47¼

to be added to the permanent fund from subscriptions of this year.

Your committee were somewhat embarrassed in determining on a proper compensation for the services of the agents. While they wished, on the one hand, to give to each agent a quantum meruit, they were desirous, on the other, not to make improper deductions from a fund destined to the purposes of charity, or by prodigal liberality check the spirit from which they hope for its future increase. They trusted also, that an allowance, as large as might be proper in other cases, would not be expected in this; as the great object is to promote the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom in the world; to which we are all under peculiar obligations. On a consideration of all the circumstances, they supposed that a dollar for each day spent in the service by the agents respectively, would be such an allowance as ought to be satisfactory.

Whereas the Presbytery of Albany were directed by the General Assembly, to appoint agents to collect money within their bounds, for the permanent fund of the General Assembly: and whereas, such agents have been appointed by said Presbytery:

Resolved, That the Presbytery of Albany be permitted to pay to each of their agents, out of the monies which they have or may collect, the sum of one dollar per day, during the time employed in making these collections, and also their necessary expences.

Resolved, That the agents, appointed last year to solicit donations for the permanent fund of the General Assembly, who have not reported, be careful to report to next Assembly; and that those who have heretofore received appointments as agents, continue to prosecute the object of their appointment, at discretion, through the ensuing year, and report to next Assembly.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Read be appointed an additional agent for the purpose aforesaid, and that he apply to those parts of the Presbyteries of New-Castle and Lewis, where subscriptions have not been made, and elsewhere, at his discretion, and report to the next Assembly.

On motion, it was resolved, That Dr. Green, Mr. Irwin, and the treasurer of the corporation of the General Assembly, be a committee to collect and prepare copies of the printed extracts of the

General Assembly, from its origin to the present year inclusive, at least sufficient to furnish each Presbytery under the care of the General Assembly with one compleat copy; re-printing the extracts of such years as cannot be otherwise obtained; together with a compleat Index to each copy; that they have the books bound, and ready to be delivered to the orders of the Presbyteries severally; who are hereby directed to instruct their commissioners at the next General Assembly, where they shall be sent.

In order to facilitate the business of the above committee, and diminish expence,

Resolved, That the Presbyteries subordinate to the General Assembly, take the most effectual measures to engage all their members to forward by mail or otherwise, as soon as possible, to the Rev. Dr. Green at Philadelphia, all such extracts from the proceedings of the General Assembly as they can spare, that the same may be used in compleating the edition contemplated.

The Assembly having found by the experience of several years past, that the business to which they are regularly called to attend is so greatly increased, that the sessions are unavoidably protracted to a much greater length than formerly; judged it expedient that the Presbyteries should be, and they hereby are informed, that their commissioners should attend with the expectation that the sessions will be of two weeks continuance, and that arrangements should be made accordingly.

Resolved, That this General Assembly be dissolved, and that the next General Assembly be required to meet in the First Presbyterian church in the City of Philadelphia, on the third Thursday of May next, at 11 o'Clock in the forenoon. Whereupon the Moderator dissolved the Assembly agreeably to the form prescribed in the Constitution, and concluded with Prayer.